

# RAIN TALK

FOR BOYS & GIRLS  
AT SCHOOL AND HOME

IT SPEAKS FOR ITSELF.

VOL. X.—No. 68.

NEW YORK, APRIL, 1891.

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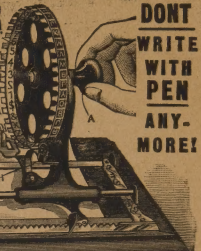
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# PLAIN TALK.

VOL. X.

NEW YORK, APRIL, 1891.

No. 68.

## "OLD SOL."

MRS. ESTELLE MENDELL AMORY.

THERE is no doubt that old Solomon Spondix, or "Sol Spondulix," as he was generally called, was mean enough; but we would be sorry to believe all that was said about him.

I shall not attempt to tell you the many horrid stories this man gave rise to, for you will readily see why the boys thought him made for their especial sport when I tell you, among other odd things, he did, this old miser, *actually—sept—in—a—coffin!*

It saved a bed, you know; and making it himself, out of old boards and nails he had picked up here and there,—why, that was no small item, either.

Old Sol was a most distressing looking object as he wandered about the city in his filthy, tattered clothes. His hair was old and tangled, his head surmounted by an old silk hat that looked as though it had been the sport of the elements for many generations. In summer he went bare-footed, but during the cold weather wore an old shoe or rubber, binding his feet with rags and paper in place of stockings.

As to what he ate, that was a mystery. Occasionally he visited the free lunch counters, but all the grocers in his vicinity said he was never known to buy anything.

Still he was said to be very rich, had thousands hid away in his shanty at West End, just beyond the city limits.

The "kids" had often discussed the question of making a raid upon "old Spondulix," but he was such a grim, glum, dogged-looking old man, they felt a little skittish.

"Spouse he's got traps, as we's heard, all round his hut; 'twouldn't be so funny," said one; "Yes, an' he looks like he wan't feared o' nothin'." Jes soon shoot's anything else," confirmed another. So the raid had from time to time been given up.

But with the coming of this first of April the matter had again been talked over with renewed zeal and a determination not to be "scared out."

There was Bos Jenks, he was to be Captain. You see he had plenty of time to plan such things, having graduated from school (by a vote of the Board) the previous term. He would make a good one, for he was a natural bully and not afraid of anyone.

Then there was Sile Tubbs, he being around the stores and billiard rooms, and so knew the "lay of the land" pretty well—was "posted." He would, of course, be a valuable assistant.

Jack Hill was still in school and a fair boy, but then he would join and so would Link Lenner.

"If I can get away from home without their mistrusting it," observed the latter, coloring a little.

"Course you can," said Bos Jenks with an air of bravado, "whose business is it where you go nights. I'd like to see dad or ma'am interfere with me!"

"But," interposed Jack, not quite so hardened, and evidently feeling some sympathy for Link's scruples, "you can fool your folks just this once and no particular harm, seeing it's the day 't is. You can pretend to go to bed, you know, and then crawl out of the window and be back before morning, and nobody any the wiser for it."

Link lingeringly consented.

But it took more courage than he had anticipated. For

he had been well brought up; taught to be obedient and respectful to his parents, made to love his home, and always was found there evenings. But he *did* have a most over-mastering desire to join this committee of inspection; for "old spondulix" had been a great subject of interest and curiosity to his young, imaginative mind. He had read of misers and he wanted to see how they lived—that was not wrong—and so he resolved at all hazards to be one of the party. To be sure it wasn't a very select party, but still Jack was a good boy!

As Link kissed his mother good night that evening, she said as she fondly caressed him, "I'm proud of my boy, I've been feeling sad all day for Mrs. Jenks, for I keep hearing Bos is fast going to the bad."

Link's heart failed him. "Why must she

say that to-night," thought the boy nervously?

But up stairs, away from her fond look, he again shook off this wholesome fear, and hearing the signal whistle from the boys he stepped out of the window, down the low roof and was gone.

It was quite dark but the streets were well lighted.

"I've jes seen him," said Bos, referring to old Sol, "he's gone round to the lunch room. I got some of the boys to kind o' worry and keep him, so we'd have time, don't you see, to get out there and fix up. Have you got the spring and tools?" turning to Sile.

"You bet."

They hurried with all their might and soon reached the queer, tumble down hovel, which was situated in a vacant field about forty rods from the road-side. They walked





about very gingerly though, you may be assured, for the stories of ghosts and traps with which the place was said to be infected, were vividly fresh in their minds.

They succeeded in making their entrance, however, without being ensnared. Bos struck a match and lit his dark lantern.

My what a shivering sight met their gaze!

There in the centre of the room stood the rough, unpainted coffin, filled with shavings in lieu of bedding, its heavy lid propped up against a broken chair.

"Well, ain't this ingenious!" said Bos, making an examination of the odd affair. "Ye see he shuts down this lid nights and to breathe opens this slide, which is just over his mouth." And he operated the unique contrivance. "Won't we fix him though. But let's look round a bit first."

There was nothing to be seen, however, but dirt, a rusty, ash-covered stove, a greasy dry-goods box, the broken chair and the ghostly coffin.

Underneath the latter they spied a trap-door.

"Oh here's where old Sol keeps his money," said Bos. "Let's go down."

"No," replied Jack and Link, quite decidedly, "We didn't come out here to play burglars."

"Sides there's no knowing what else's down there; we might git blowed ter atoms or git fast," observed Sile, quite prudently.

"Yes, 'n 'praps we haint got more'n time to fix the spring, anyway," acquiesced Bos.

Then the boys set to work with zeal worthy a better motive, to place a spring on the coffin, so that when old Sol closed the lid at night, he would be a fast prisoner.

"That will work to a 'T,'" said Bos, as Sile gave the screws a tightening turn.

"Je whitaker!"

"Heavens!"

"Horrors!"

Their hearts were in their mouths—for a second they could not stir, but just looked at each other in speechless terror—for they heard the scuffling step of their would-be victim outside. If he should step in and find them, what would be their fate! Jack and Link naturally clung together, both wishing, more than tongue can tell, that they were safe in bed at home.

But this was no time to spend in vain regrets and wishes. They must make their escape and quickly; but how? Not by the door they entered, for old Sol could lay them all low with the revolvers with which he was supposed to be padded.

"I think I saw a door in that corner," quivered Jack, pointing to the opposite side of the room.

Bos flashed his lantern and sure enough there was an opening through which they fled in hot haste; but only to find themselves in a worse plight than before. From their present snug quarters there was no visible means of escape—no door or hole of any kind, not even a window; they were prisoners indeed; their fate seemed sealed!

"I guess it want him after all," whispered Sile, as, in breathless silence they crouched in one corner of their dungeon. "It was the wind."

But it was old Sol, and soon they heard the unmistakable rattle of the old latch in the adjoining room, and distinctly heard him enter.

Fortunately for the boys, the music of the wind in the rickety old shell completely covered their hasty and somewhat noisy retreat.

As they heard the old man step across the creaky floor, they crowded still closer into the corner. A board back of Link seemed to give a little! "Here, boys," he whispered, scarce daring to hope, "can't we push this open or off and crawl out?"

It was a heavy board and quite firmly nailed, but by their united strength, which was increased four-fold by the perils of their situation, they finally succeeded in loosening one end. After several attempts they managed to prop it open.

Through went Bos in a twinkling, and then Sile.

"You go next," whispered Jack to Link.

"No, you."

Jack went, but his foot hit the prop—back sprung the heavy board into its place, and our poor young friend was still a prisoner—and now all alone.

But surely the boys would help him out, they had teased him into the scrape and they would not now so cruelly desert him! But in vain he hoped and waited.

Soon his attention was directed to what was taking place in the adjacent room. Old Sol was preparing for bed. He did not strike a light, Link was someway glad of that, qnt he got into his narrow couch and shut down the heavy lid.

Click! went the spring.

Link heard it distinctly and so did old Sol. He raised up to see what it could be, but he was fast. Nervous and breathless from sudden fear, he tried again, but he could not stir the lid. He kicked with his feet and pounded with his dirty fists, but to no purpose. Then he gave a cry of terror and despair that almost made poor Link swoon in unconsciousness.

Indeed the sepulchral chilling effect of the old man's muttered curses, cries and prayers, as they came from or through the small opening of the coffin, can better be imagined than described.

Link grew faint and sick. At times he seemed frozen into a mere speck, then again his head felt large enough to fill a bushel basket, his heart had long since ceased to beat, for his blood was turned into water and was pouring through his pores, his hair had crept off his head in a series of chills, in fact, who he was or what had happened were mere matters of conjecture with him. But it would take a pen dipped in the horrors of delirium tremens to describe all that these two victims of this April Fool suffered as the hours of that long, dark night wore slowly and wretchedly away.

Occasionally, after a few moments of silence, a state of semi-consciousness, with the real situation of things, would dawn upon Link. Then he would try to move the board again, but with all his frenzied strength he could not spring it. Several times it entered his mind to run through the other room, and escape by the outside door. "He is fast, he cannot hurt me," Link would carefully reason; but he could not screw his courage to the sticking point; it took his breath away to even think of it.

Thus the moments that seemed suddenly lengthened into ages dragged along.

At last Link's quick ear caught the sound of foot-steps outside. Then he saw the bright flash of a lantern through the crack. He listened and looked, scarce knowing whether to be relieved or more alarmed. Soon, however, he heard the familiar voice of Jack and he thought, though he could hardly believe it possible, that of his own father.

It was.

Though Bos and Sile, after making good their own escape thought nothing further of their other two accomplices. Jack could not rest with Link in such a perilous situation. So he had gone straight to Mr. Lenner and told him the whole story; and these two, together with a policeman, had now come to the poor boy's rescue.

"Are you here, Link?" whispered Jack, prying at the board; and his relief and joy when his friend answered "yes," was very deep and sincere, for he had imagined all manners of ills for him.

"Where's Sol?" asked Jack cautiously,

"In the coffin fast."

When Link had been rescued which was but a moment's work, Mr. Lenner and the policeman released the trembling and half-crazed old miser.

"Now, if you have friends or relatives," said Mr. Lenner, kindly but earnestly, to the old man, "you had best to go to them and make them and yourself comfortable with your means."

And we are happy to tell you he did.

As for Link, he had no more desire for "larks" or "adventures," and you will not be surprised to learn that quite a serious illness followed this fright.

Link is now fully convinced that a boy's place is at home evenings, rather than in doubtful fun; so is Jack, and it is safe to affirm that all those boys and old Sol, will never forget that April fool.

THE *Detroit Sunday News* of January 25th, contained a portrait and sketch of Edgar Davis, the "boat builder," whose advertisement PLAIN TALK is carrying. An interesting account was given of the large business which the Davis Boat and Oar Company have built up since 1887.



## HOW TO DO IT.

Original contributions solicited for this page. Send sketches, no matter how rough, with descriptions, and when possible, illustrations will be made.

### A Set of Book Shelves.

AN exchange shows how to arrange shelves for books on a wall without nailing them. If a number of books one wishes to dispose of is not too large, a very inexpensive yet pretty case may be made as follows: Take two good sized soap boxes or such as canned fruit are packed in. Fit a shelf midway in each. This is easily done by nailing small cleats inside the box and laying a little board on them. Place one box on top of the other fastening together with small screws. Cover top and sides with any pretty stuff, cretonne or silkline, tacking pinked strips along the edges of the shelves. If desired a tiny curtain may be arranged to hang in front. "I have made several such little bookcases, and can assure our readers that they not only deceive the public as their soap box nature, but look exceedingly pretty."

### Something about Microscopes.

FOR what price can you buy a microscope?" repeated a Fulton street optician to a reporter of the *Evening Post*. "Well that depends upon what kind of one you want. I can sell you a simple instrument, which with its three lenses combined, has a power of thirty-three diameters, for \$3.50. With it you can see many of the larger animalculæ in pond water, the scales from a butterfly's wing, pollen-grains from plants, and thousands of other objects not visible to the naked eye. From \$3.50 the prices for microscopes range up to \$350 and \$400. Now let me tell you something about the different styles and grades, so that if you ever want to buy one you will know what to get. In the first place, a very common mistake made by persons at tempting to select a microscope is to judge of the excellence of a instrument by the amount of its magnifying power. No object should be viewed with a power greater than that required to show its structure, and if that can be done with thirty diameters, it is to say the least, unnecessary to use one hundred. This is especially the case with low priced instruments, where the apertures of the objectives, are small and the connections not so exact as in the higher grades, rendering them more liable to give false impressions of objects. Moreover, it is absolutely impossible to view opaque objects satisfactorily by the reflected light of cheap compound microscopes. For those who wish to dissect flowers and insects for examination a simple instrument is better.

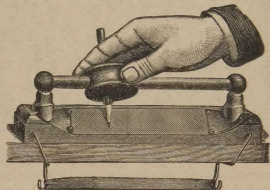
"In selecting a microscope the essential points to be observed are that the lenses show objects clear and well-defined, that the stand be of good material and workmanship, and that there be no lateral movement in the adjustments of the focus. Further, that the focus be instantly changeable when desired, and that it have a joint for inclination. Now for the different kinds of microscopes. The simplest of course is the single glass, such as is used by watchmakers and engravers, and the common pocket glass with from one to three lenses. The simplest microscope with a stand is the one I mentioned for \$3.50. As I said, with its three lenses combined it has a magnifying power of thirty-three diameters. It packs in a box that acts as a base for the upright brass stem. With it comes an animalculæ cage, a pair of brass forceps, a watch glass, two plain glass slips, and a prepared object. The school microscope is very similar, but works easier, and is better adapted for school purposes. Of the compound microscopes here is one selling for \$2.50 which is the simplest. It is of polished brass, as you see, with one eye-piece and one object-glass, magnifying when combined about forty diameters, or 1,600 times, the power being calculated by squaring the diameter.

This powerful instrument for household use, with its two object glasses, magnifies from 900 to 10,000 times, and ranges in price according to size and quality from \$5 to \$12. For ordinary use, an amateur microscopist can buy an instrument for from \$23 to \$30 which will answer his every purpose. Such a microscope will have a stage with adjustable spring clips, a revolving diaphragm with four apertures beneath the stage, and a concave reflecting mirror for use under or above the stage. It can magnify 27,000 times, and with the addition of a one-fifth object glass; this can be increased

to 127,000 times. For students in histology and vegetable anatomy we have instruments that range in price from \$50 to \$400, and when one of the cheapest is furnished with condenser, polariscope, camera lucida, spot lens, zoophyte trough, live box, and forceps, it is complete for almost any investigation."

### The Perfect Pencil Pointer.

MUCH effort has been made within the past few years to perfect a Pencil Sharpener to meet the public want; one that should be simple, yet tasteful in design, combining convenience, cleanliness, efficiency, and economy. Fully three hundred patents have been granted inventors for various devices and improvements, but nearly all have proved signal failures. Others while meeting some of the requirements, are heavy and cumbersome; make too much noise, or require replacing of parts. The price, too, prevents their being placed in every office, home and school.



The Perfect Pencil Pointer happily supplies this long felt want, meets all the requirements, and receives universal commendation.

The cut above shows the Perfect Pencil Pointer secured to the edge of a desk or table. It is not necessary to fasten it down, for it works equally as well held in the hand; the clamp however is sent with each machine.

This Sharpener differs from all its predecessors in being a simple mechanical arrangement for revolving a pencil as it is moved along upon the surface of a file. The file is made expressly for this use, has a deep cut and a high temper, and will wear for years. In all parts of the machine perfection has been aimed at. The price is \$1.75. Made by the Perfect Pencil Pointer Co., 105 Middle st., Portland, Me.

### The Best Cutlery.

IF WE wanted the best pocket knife that the money we had to spend could buy, we would send to Alling & Lodge, Madison, Ind. If a fifty cent knife is wanted they can supply it; or a dollar one; or a higher priced one. Let any reader try the firm, and we will guarantee satisfaction. Write at least for price-list and mention this paper.

### Exchange and Mart.

ATTENTION is again called to the fact that the subscription list of the late *Exchange and Mart* of Boston has been added to that of *PLAIN TALK*. This renders the paper of especial value to advertisers.

*PLAIN TALK*, of New York City, is a monthly paper that should be in the hands of every youth in the land. Every issue contains matters of interest to both young and old. Departments of different kinds, such as Philately, Natural History, Puzzledom, etc., help to make the paper very interesting. The subscription price is only fifty cents per year, which is very reasonable—*Standard Agent's Directory*.

F. W. KINNE, Knoxville, Iowa, an extensive dealer in Natural History specimens, Indian relics, etc., has favored us with his latest price-list.

COLLECTORS of birds' eggs should send to Frank H. Lattin, Albion, N. Y., for his special Easter offers. Some of them are simply wonderful.

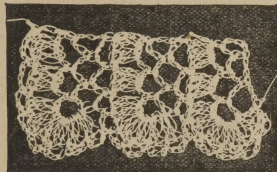
## LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

EDITED BY  
MRS. N. F. PERKINS, 635 PARK AVE., N. Y.

## Fancy Work.

## FEATHER EDGE LACE.

MAKE a chain of twelve stitches. First row, one single crochet in the sixth stitch, four chain, skip two, one single crochet in the next stitch, four chain, one double crochet in last stitch, six chain, turn. Second row, (one s. c. over ch., four ch.) two times, one s. c. in ch. at end of row, three ch., turn. Third row, (four d. c. over ch.) two times; twelve d. c. over six ch., fasten in first row with s. c. and in



the second scallop in the ch. of three, turn. Fourth row, three ch., one s. c. between second and third doubles, three ch., one s. c. between fourth and fifth doubles, and continue until there are six small scallops, four ch., one s. c. between the four d. c., four ch., one s. c. at end of row, six ch., turn. Fifth row, one s. c. over ch., (four ch., one s. c. over next ch.) two times; six ch., turn. Begin again at the second row. This edging can be made wider if desired.

EMMA L. HAUCK.

## NARROW DIAGONAL EDGE.

CAST on twelve stitches, knit across plain. First row, slip one, over, narrow, over, narrow, over, narrow, k. three, over twice, narrow. Second row, k. two, seam one, k. rest plain. Third row, slip one, k. five, over, narrow, k. five. Fourth row, k. two, seam one, k. rest plain. Fifth row, slip one, over, narrow, over, narrow, k. two, over, narrow, k. two, over twice, narrow. Sixth row, k. two, seam



one, k. rest plain. Seventh row, slip one, k. seven, over, narrow, k. four. Eighth row, k. fourteen. Ninth row, slip one, over, narrow, over, narrow, k. four, over, narrow, k. one, over twice, narrow. Tenth row, k. two, seam one, k. rest plain. Eleventh row, slip one, k. nine, over, narrow, k. three. Twelfth row, bind off three, k. rest plain. Begin at first row.

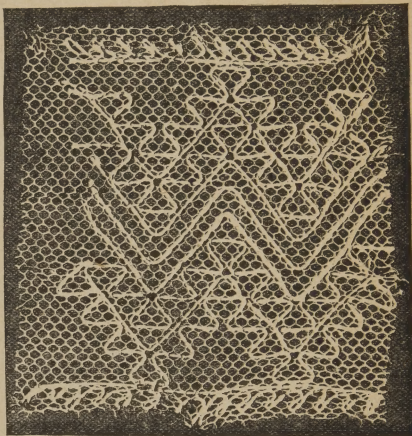
MRS. A. E. S.

## BUTTERCUP WORK-BAG.

ONE piece of white satin a quarter of a yard square line with yellow surah. Take a second piece of satin the same size and line with yellow surah, then cut a hole in centre a trifle larger than a silver dollar. Buttonhole around the edge with yellow embroidery silk, then make a casing for draw-string, half an inch, using for the draw string one yard and three-quarters of yellow ribbon half an inch wide. Next join the two squares on the wrong side with stitching. Turn on right side and stitch across. Finish the four corners with yellow tassels. Paint buttercups on each corner of the satin.

## THE MEMORY HOOP.

THE "memory hoop" is the newest craze among society young ladies. Any hoop will do, for it is covered up by pieces of ribbon, presented by girl friends, upon which must be painted or embroidered the name of the giver and the date when given. The ribbon must have been worn else it possesses no charm.



## DARNED LACE.

THE foundation of this work is white web net, and the design is done with silk or linen floss. Easily worked from the pattern.

MARGARET LOREO.

## Our Cook Book.

WILL not each reader of PLAIN TALK send in her best recipe?

Extracts from my Receipt Book by TISLET TEMPLE.

## GOOD COOKIES.

One cup of molasses, one cup of sugar, two eggs, two teaspoonsful of soda, three tablespoonsful of vinegar, flour to roll soft. Nice for childrens' school lunch.

## CUSTARD PIE, (without milk.)

Wet a heaping tablespoonsful of Corn starch with cold water, add boiling water until it is as thick as thin cream, beat two eggs, add three tablespoonsful of sugar, put in the cooked starch, beat well, flavor to taste, and bake as usual.

## COTTAGE PUDDING.

One cup of sugar, one-half cup of water, one-half cup of butter, one egg, two cups of flour, one and a half teaspoonsful of baking powder, flavor to taste, and bake about twenty-five minutes.

SAUCE.—One cup of sugar, two tablespoonsful of flour, scant one-half cup of butter, this all together, add boiling water to make of consistency of cream, add juice of one lemon or one tablespoonsful of vinegar. Eat warm.

## MASHED TURNIPS.

Pare turnips, cut in slices, put them in salted boiling water and boil until tender, drain them well, then mash, add a lump of butter, salt and pepper.

## FEATHER CAKE.

One cup of sugar, one cup of milk, two and a half cups of flour, one tablespoonsful of butter, one egg, two teaspoonsful of cream tartar, one teaspoonsful of soda, flavor to taste.

## LUNCH TOAST.

Toast is something that one can prepare at a moment's notice, and there are various ways of getting up inviting plates of toast for lunch. Add to one small cup of sweet milk, one beaten egg, a pinch of salt, slip stale sliced bread in this, then fry in hot butter on a griddle a nice light brown.



## ROLY POLY CAKE.

**WHITE PART.**—Whites of three eggs, one cup of sugar, one-fourth cup of butter, one and a half cups of milk, two cups of flour, one teaspoonful cream tartar, one-half teaspoonful of soda.

**DARK PART.**—Yolks of three eggs, one-half cup of sugar, one-half cup of molasses, one-half cup of butter, one-half cup of milk, two cups of flour, one-half teaspoonful of soda. All kinds of spices and raisins one cup or more. Put in your dish a layer of white, and the dark drop in by spoonful, then another layer of white and so on.

## MEAT PATTIES.

Chop fine pieces of cold meat, moisten with a little gravy so that it will stick together, make into little balls, flatten them slightly, dip in well-beaten egg roll, in crackers or fine bread crumbs and fry in boiling hot fat.

## SCALLOPED SQUASH.

One small Hubbard squash; pare and remove the seeds, cut in small bits and boil in salted water until tender. When done pour off the water and dry a few moments on the stove, mash fine, add one tablespoonful of butter, one of milk, a little salt and pepper, the raw yolk of one egg; stir all together and put in a baking dish; smooth the top and cover with bread crumbs; moisten with a little milk; bake one-half hour.

## WHOLE WHEAT FLOUR GEMS.

Into a quart measure put one pint and a half of flour, then, add half a cupful of sugar, one teaspoonful soda, and two of cream of tartar, half a teaspoonful of salt, now sift into the mixing-bowl and add milk to make rather a stiff batter, put into hot gem pans and bake.

## WHITE SOUBISE SOUP.

Cut two good sized onions in small pieces, put them in a stew-pan with one ounce of butter. Cover and cook over a slow fire three-quarters of an hour, being careful not to let them burn. When tender add one-half pint of milk, a little over a pint of white stock from a chicken, one pint of stale bread crumbs; simmer gently for five minutes. Press through a fine sieve, return to the fire and heat. Add salt and pepper.

## TOMATO SOUP.

One quart tomatoes, one pint of water. Boil twenty minutes, strain through a coarse sieve, using a spoon to mash it through; return the soup to the saucepan, add one tablespoonful of butter, one teaspoonful of sugar, a little salt, a dash or two of red pepper, one-half teaspoonful of Worcestershire sauce. Beat a tablespoonful of corn starch with a little water until smooth; add to the soup. Let it boil up and it is ready to serve.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

The readers of PLAIN TALK are invited to write letters, ask questions of general interest on fancy work or housekeeping. Send directions of race and fancy work.

**DEAR READERS:**—Trusting you enjoyed the cabinet specimens I have shown you in my previous letters in PLAIN TALK, I will again endeavor to interest you for a few moments. First I will commence by showing you my collection of sands. One could not readily comprehend such a variety of colors and would have to be seen to be appreciated. Here are two vials filled with white sand. One from Minnehaha Falls, Minn., the other from Grove City, Florida. Yet how different they are. While the sand from Minnesota is dull in lustre, this from Florida is bright and sparkling. Then this magnetic sand from New Hampshire, how dark, almost black, yet pretty. This from Ship Island, Miss., is one I greatly admire, such a peculiar color or colors. The garnet sand from Madison Beach, Conn., is lovely. Would you believe there is sand of the brightest colors of green, red and blue. Well, here they are, see for yourself, these high colored sands came from Louisiana. I have only a small quantity of each. Wish I could procure more. Here is a vial containing sand from the interior of Japan, five miles from the Japan Sea. Not so pretty as some, but much appreciated. Here is some sand in larger vials which a friend ("a grand old man") in Massachusetts collected and sent me. Through his kindness I have procured many of my most appreciated specimens. I have sands from other places besides many of the States and Territories. Here is a long glass tube filled with many colors that is beautiful and has quite a history. These sands were thrown up near

Charleston, South Carolina, in 1886. My friend wrote me she experienced the shock in all its horrors. Having to leave the house (fearing its destruction) in the darkness of night and remained out with the earth shivering and reeling under her feet, afraid to move for fear of stepping into a Geyser or an opening in the earth. With her babe in her arms and three little girls clinging to her skirts, she stood through it all, with the smell of sulphur stifling the whole air which seemed heavy with the fumes. The next morning could be seen a sulphur coating on the walls of the buildings. It certainly was a night of horror.

Here is a small cabinet of polished gems I have lately received which I know you will greatly admire. It contains tiger eye, onyx, cameo, bloodstone, pink crocodolite, green crocodolite, cornelian, mosaic, tree agate, moss agate, jasper, green moss agate, goldstone, etc. These cut gems and stones I received as a Christmas present, all polished ready for any jeweler to mount.

Here is a large petrified shark's tooth, one of my first treasures in collecting and prized more highly as time passes. Then here is a small whale's tooth from the Atlantic—I would like to own a large one. Here is the tooth of a Brontothorax and a few other rare teeth from Custer Co., Dak. Here are the jaws and teeth of the Bellows fish received from my "Massachusetts friend." It is different from anything I ever saw. See! It has three rows of teeth in each jaw, the teeth varying in length from one-fourth to three-fourths of an inch, and all so nice and white. I have only made a commencement in showing you through my collection. Will endeavor, next time, to interest you with my shells, minerals, corals and fossils. I would be pleased to hear through PLAIN TALK, from others who are interested in making a Cabinet Collection. NORA NORMAL, Indiana.

**DEAR PLAIN TALKERS:**—The name of your periodical suggests to my mind a much needed reformation in our form of speech. Did you ever think of it? Listen to the conversation one cannot help but hear on the street cars, in the streets or any place where young people "most do congregate." Is it "plain talk?" It sometimes lacks so much of being that as to be almost unintelligible.

They speak of "making a mash," of being "stuck," or "dead gone" on something or somebody. Then each one has a favorite adjective or adverb which is made to do duty on all occasions, whether it be appropriate or not. The city girl who visits in the country gushes over the lovely peas and elegant fried chicken, and her country cousin imitates her by calling her friend's hat "the *sweetest* thing she ever saw," and each seemingly tries to outdo the other in praising some young man of their acquaintance by pronouncing him "too cute for anything," and "awfully tony." I might go on, and on, *ad infinitum ad nauseam* and fill a whole page of your paper with slang phrases but it is unnecessary. You have all heard enough of it. But let me beg of each one of you to just listen to one such conversation between persons whom you do not know and then ask yourself how it sounds, and what kind of an opinion you would form of those persons judging from their conversation, and if your talk sounds as silly, meaningless and disgusting as that you have listened to. It seems to me Robert Burns' lines might be changed a little and fit the occasion very nicely by making it:

"Oh wad some power the giftie gie us  
To hear oursel's as others hear us."

MARGARETH.

## Ladies' Exchange Column.

Exchange notices of not more than forty words inserted free to subscribers only.  
Mrs. M. E. Johnson, 508 Michigan Ave., Leavenworth, Kansas.—Will exchange fancy knit silk mittens, linen, worsted and cotton knitted lace, for Belding's knitting silk. Write for sample of lace.

Mrs. L. S. Goff, Middlebury, Vermont.—Will exchange thirty stamping patterns, each package containing design for pillow sham and splasher and twelve other large designs for two and one-half yards of gingham, or one and one-half yards of Lonsdale cambric.

H. A. Henton, Charlton, Saratoga Co., N. Y.—Will exchange Cinnamon vine and Golden Bells for a dozen or two of Aspen stone, Naville's stone, opals, moss agates, etc. Labeled with name and locality; size, two by two and one-half inches.

Miss Grace E. Bennett, Coverville, Saratoga Co., N. Y.—Will exchange new parchment stamping patterns, for silk, satin or velvet scraps or reading matter.

Mrs. Mary Talbott, Box 423, Stockton, Kansas.—Will exchange six cacti plants (threes kinds and hardy) for a two cent stamp and two yards of any kind of cotton goods in one or more pieces.

Mrs. J. H. Gosette, Salt Creek, Porter Co., Indiana.—Will weave hair watch chains and charms from your own hair in exchange for woolen articles of clothing that you would care for school girls. Write for particulars.

## THE American Archaeological Association.

*President, A. F. BEBLIN, Allentown, Pa.  
Vice-President, Dr. D. S. McARTHUR, Lacrosse, Wis.  
Secretary, A. B. FARNHAM, Brimley, D. C.  
Treasurer, E. J. SHELDON, 285 Adelphi Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.  
Librarian, CHAS. A. FRENCH, Woburn, Mass.  
Exchange Superintendent, J. R. NISSLEY, Ada, Ohio.  
Counterfeit Detector,  
Board of Trustees, JOE WIGGLESWORTH, Wilmington, Del.; F. J. ROCKWOOD,  
10 Coral Street, Worcester, Mass.; G. L. FANCHER, West Winfield, Conn.*

### Secretary's Report.

I HAVE the pleasure of reporting the following APPLICATIONS.

H. W. Seal, Boons Path, Va. References: W. C. Thompson, Nat. Scott, Esq., Boons Path, Va.

Alexander E. Smith, Box 80, Jonesville, Va. References: T. J. Ely, J. N. Charles, Jonesville, Va.

A. C. Gruhlke, Waterloo, Ind. Reference: L. V. McWhorter, Berlin, W. Va.

Charles F. Causey, Sartatia, Miss. References: E. R. Gale, J. E. Keene, Sartatia, Miss.

#### NEW MEMBERS.

V. B. Allee, Paola, Kans.

P. A. Gannon, Plantsville, Ct.

John DeWolfe, Corning, N. Y.

New members will receive their cards on payment of their dues to the treasurer. A. B. FARNHAM, *Secretary*.

### How Arrow-heads Were Made.

I PROPOSE, in the next few numbers of PLAIN TALK, telling my readers of the different methods practiced by the makers of arrow-points, as well as larger chipped or flaked implements. I shall quote from writers who have actually seen the makers at work, and a few able archaeologists who have practised the art of chipping in stone.

It is to be sincerely regretted that the Moravian Missionary Heckewelder, the author of "Indian Nations," who lived with the Indians many years, and who no doubt saw relics of stone made, should in his valuable work, fail to give us a description of their mode of manufacture. While he fully describes their family life, hunting, religion, etc., he keeps us in complete ignorance of that which we would at the present so much like to know.

For the first I quote from George Catlin, who also for many years travelled or made his home with the red people, and of whom it is said, "as an author or writer Mr. Catlin was simple, direct and positive. His works contain but little coloring: \* \* \* truth was what he sought for."

His account of the Apaches making flint arrow-heads in 1855 is illustrative of his descriptive powers: "Their manufacture of flint arrow and spearheads, is equal, if not superior to the manufactures of any tribes existing. Like most of the tribes west of and in the Rocky Mountains, they manufacture the blades of their spears and points of flints and also of obsidian, which is scattered over those volcanic regions west of the mountains; and, like the other tribes, they guard as a profound secret the mode by which the flints and obsidian are broken into the shape they require. Their mode is very simple, and evidently the only way by which those peculiar shapes and delicacy of fracture can possibly be produced. Every tribe has its *factory*, in which these arrow-heads are made, and in those only certain adepts are able or allowed to make them for the use of the tribe. Erratic boulders of flint are collected (sometimes brought an immense distance) and broken with a sort of sledge hammer, made by a rounded pebble of hornstone, set in a twisted withe, holding the stone and forming a handle.

The flint at the indiscriminate blows of the sledge, is broken into a hundred pieces, and such flakes selected as from the angle of their fracture and thickness, will answer as the basis of an arrow-head; and in the hands of the artisan they are shaped into the beautiful forms and proportions which they desire, and which are to be seen in most of our museums.

The master workman, seated on the ground, lays one of these flakes on the palm of his left hand, holding it firmly down with two or more fingers of the same hand, and with his right hand between the thumb and two fore-fingers,

places his chisel (or punch) on the point that is to be broken off; and a co-operator (a striker) sitting in front of him, with a mallet of very hard wood, strikes the chisel on the upper end, flaking the flint off on the under side, below each projecting point that is struck. The flint is then turned and chipped in the same manner from the opposite side, and so turned and chipped until the required shape and dimensions are obtained, all the fractures being made on the palm of the hand.

In selecting a flake for the arrow-head a nice judgment must be used, or the attempt will fail; a flake with two opposite parallel or nearly parallel planes is found, and of the thickness required for the centre of the arrow-point. The first chipping reaches near to the centre of these planes but without quite breaking it away, and each chipping is shorter and shorter, until the shape and the edge of the arrow-head are formed.

The yielding elasticity of the palm of the hand enables the chip to come off without breaking the body of the flint, which would be the case if they were broken on a hard substance. \* \* \* The instrument (punch) which they use I was told was a piece of bone; but on examining it I found it to be a substance much harder, made of the tooth (incisor) of the sperm whale, or sea lion, which are often stranded on the coast of the Pacific. This punch is about six or seven inches in length, and one inch in diameter, with one rounded side and two plane sides; therefore presenting one acute and two obtuse angles to suit the points to be broken." A. F. B.

### Scrapers.

I WAS pleased to see that my article on Scrapers in PLAIN TALK called out an answer from President Berlin and Mr. W. T. Miller. I accepted the offer that he so kindly made, and in return received six specimens of Western scrapers, four of them being of the common form and two of "sheaf of wheat" pattern which is a new shape to me. I have examined them carefully with a glass and I fail to find any trace of use, the edge being as keen and sharp as when made. To obtain that edge some of the finest work was required, the chips taken off being so minute as to be hardly visible without a glass; in one case I counted fifty places where flakes had been taken to form a small scraper. They would seem to be an article of every day use, and one that took but little time or skill to make, as in nearly every case one end only is finished, the other left in the natural state. Mr. Berlin states that scrapers were sometimes made of broken spear and arrow points. I have several specimens of celts and gouges that seem to have been used long after they had been broken, and one banner stone that is broken through the perforation and a number of holes drilled to fasten the parts together or to lash a wooden handle to one half so that it could be used as a knife.

A thorough examination of my cabinets shows but one piece (and that would pass for a broad arrow point) that shows the slightest trace of use. While many are battered and broken this one is smooth on the edge as though it had been used to rub or scrape with. Mr. Berlin asks if we wish any more gable? I say yes. I always get new ideas from his articles, and I wish that we might hear from every member, and that everyone would feel that this is our department in PLAIN TALK, and would see that it was kept full and running over with good things. Don't be afraid; send in your Chips and Flakes, no matter how small. As to the Official Editor, he is perfectly kind and gentle, and doesn't have much to do, and if we must keep him, let us keep him busy. C. A. P.

From Dr. McKown.

HAVING been interested in the "Archaeological Chatter," and on frauds in Ohio, having been an ardent collector for thirty-five years, and having one of the largest and most varied private collections of fine historic relics in Ohio, and being a member of the Ohio State Archaeological Society, I am prepared and ready to stand by the integrity of my co-laborers in this most worthy calling. I have seen a large number of collections in the Ohio valley, and must say frauds and fraud specimens are scarce. But there are those who are making specimens and trying to pass them off, or



through amateur collectors. I am with Brother "W. K. M." as regards hematites, never having seen a spurious specimen. But I have seen gorgets, largely drilled, made of steatite, that are base frauds, also discoidal stones that were the same. These imitators are sharp enough to select the material commonly used for such specimens. But these specimens were not made in Ohio, but offered here. I have in my possession an arrow point made from a white, soft material, like satin spar, said to be from Arkansas. It is labelled with a newspaper clipping, viz.:

"We were shown the other day some fine specimens of genuine prehistoric arrow points, they were made in Cincinnati last summer.—*Texas Sittings*."

But my object in writing this is to put all collectors on their guard, if a fraud is presented and you are dubious as to its genuineness see some one that can tell, and if N. G. return it to the dealer instant. This I have done more than once and if adopted these imitators would soon come to grief for want of dupes to buy their frauds.

G. E. McKOWN, *Cardington, Ohio.*

A VERY handsome catalogue is that sent out by J. R. Nissley, Ada, O. He accompanies it by a letter stating that after April 1st and until about December he will be away from home much of the time gathering relics, and as a rule will only get his mail about once in two weeks.

#### Sitting Bull.

THE *Great Divide* for March has been received and is the most attractive number of this original and striking journal that we have yet seen. A brilliant feature, worthy of special mention, is the Art Supplement, an aquarelle portrait of Sitting Bull in seven colors, showing the great medicine man of the Sioux in full costume. The stories, poems, scientific and descriptive articles in this number are more than usually attractive and are made doubly interesting by copious and artistic illustrations. A copy of this special art issue will be sent to anyone addressing THE GREAT DIVIDE at Denver, Colorado, and enclosing ten cents.

## GAMES AND PASTIMES.

Contributions for this department are solicited in regard to every variety of indoor and outdoor amusement.

#### The Word Building Contest.

SINCE the special legislative council of Arizona has passed a woman suffrage bill, its influence seems to have extended to the subscribers of PLAIN TALK, and there seems to be a determination on the part of the female portion to be at the head, and the awards this month in the word building contest are wholly in that line, the base word being "Obfuscation." Both winners took advantage of a grammatical technicality to their advantage. They were:

First prize to Mrs. T. N. McClelland, Lexington, Ky., 329 correct words.

Second prize to Miss Emma L. Hauck, White Plains, N. Y., 321 correct words, and had there been a third prize it would have been won by Miss Anna Blackie.

Another contest is announced and the word selected is EDINGCATOR.

Note this particular: Hereafter all prize papers must be sent to GEO. D. THOMAS, 14 High Street, Waltham, Mass., who is to have charge of this contest.

The rules governing the contest are as follows:

1. Only subscribers can compete but any one may send their subscriptions in with their list of words.
2. Proper names will not be allowed, and only words found in the body of Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, which will be considered a final authority in deciding all disputed points.
3. Prefixes, suffixes and abbreviations will not be counted, nor will plurals be allowed.
4. Words marked "obsolete" will not be counted, unless they are still current in some of their meanings.
5. Words of different meaning, but spelt the same, count as one word.
6. Words of the same meaning, but spelt differently, count one word for each spelling, unless one is obsolete.
7. No letter can be used more than once in the same word unless used more than once in the word or words used as a basis of the contest.
8. All lists must be written in ink (or on a type-writer) and must be alphabetically arranged, and the words numbered consecutively.
9. The full name and address of the contestant must be written at the top of the first sheet, and also the word used as the basis of the contest.
10. In case of a close contest, the number of errors and the general neatness of the work will be taken into consideration in awarding the prize.

The prizes will be: First, four of our new prize books; second, three of the same; third, one of the same.

This contest will close May 10th, and the result will be announced in the June issue.

#### Easter Angling.

THE appliances for this game are manufactured at home, and consist of three toy hoops, such as children use for rolling, eight bamboo walking canes, and eight hooks made of wire like figure 7. A piece of twine three-quarters of a yard long is tied to the small end of each stick, and to the other end of the twine is fastened a hook.

Smooth, stiff, light brown paper is pasted or tacked over each hoop like a drum-head, and in this paper covering of each hoop six round holes are cut just large enough to admit the small end of an egg, or about the size of a silver quarter of a dollar. Four of the holes are made at equal distance apart, twelve inches from the edge of the paper, and the other two are near the centre.

Eighteen eggs to be angled for are provided. They are not boiled but the shells are emptied of their contents by punching a small hole with a needle in each end of the shell and blowing steadily into one end until the egg has all run out of the other end.

The hole at the small end of the shell is then enlarged to the size of a silver dime. In this way the shells are prepared for decoration.

They may be painted with water colors, with designs of spring flowers and butterflies, gilded, or silvered, or colored with dyes.

A circle of gilt paper is folded twice and an eight-pointed star is cut. In the centre of this is cut a round hole.

A piece of narrow white satin ribbon, three inches long, folded in the centre and pushed through the hole in the centre of the star forms it into a loop; the ends are then pasted securely to the point of either side of the star.

When the eggshell has received its decoration this star and loop are glued to the large end of each shell.

In twelve of the eggshells are hidden trifling gifts of candy, a tiny penknife, silver thimble or a trinket of any kind; in four are slips of paper on which are written prize ring, and in the other two are also slips of paper; on one is written first prize, on the other second prize.

Every shell being supplied with its gift the holes at the small end of the egg are covered by pasting over each a small round or white paper, the edge of which is cut in points to make it fit more easily to the shell.

The rules of the game are as follows:

First Eight players only can take part in the game.

Second. The three hoops are placed on the floor paper side up, at some distance apart. In each of the two ordinary rings are placed six eggs, standing upright in the holes, small end down; four eggs contain presents and two the papers bearing the words prize ring. In the third, or prize ring, are four eggs containing presents, and the two which hold the papers with the words first prize and second prize.

Third. There must be no distinguishing mark upon any of the prize eggs.

Fourth. Four players stand around each of the ordinary rings. Having once chosen their places they must keep them until all the eggs have been taken from the ring.

Fifth. Every player is provided with a fishing rod which is held by one end, not in the middle.

Sixth. The endeavor of each player is to insert his hook through the ribbon loop on one of the eggs and lift it out of the ring, doing this as quickly as possible and catching as many as he can.

As each egg is taken from the ring its contents are examined and the player who first gets a prize ring egg ceases angling until the other prize ring egg has been caught.

Seventh. When the eggs have all been taken out at both ordinary rings the two players in each ring who have the prize ring eggs move to the prize ring and angle for the eggs which it contains.

Eighth. Two prizes, the first and second, fall to the lot of the two players who are fortunate enough to secure the prize eggs in the prize ring.

The prizes given for the prize eggs at the prize ring should be of a little more importance than those contained in the other eggs. Instead of trinkets these eggs may contain only candy, which will give more prominence to the two real prizes given at the end of the game.—*Adalia B. Beard.*

THE answer to an "old time riddle," in March issue is "Jonah."

# • • PLAIN TALK • •

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THE EXCHANGE AND MART OF BOSTON, AND THE STAMP WORLD AND HUBBARD'S MAGAZINE OF LAKE VILLAGE, N. H., HAVE BEEN COMBINED WITH THIS PAPER.

## SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

IN ADVANCE.

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Per line per insertion, 10 cents; per inch, \$1.00; per column, \$8.00. Space less than one column must be paid at inch rates; less than one inch at line rates. Ten per cent. discount for six months; 20 per cent. for one year. Rates invariable and all advertisements subject to approval.

Entered as second-class matter at the New York, N. Y., Post Office.

NEW YORK, APRIL, 1891.

NOT a little, but rather, a good deal of push is necessary if one would make his way in the world in these days. At the same time, Young America should learn to distinguish between the right kind and wrong kind of article. The right kind is certainly not that which leads a lad to crowd rudely ahead of ladies and elderly men in making his way to a car, or into a door-way; nor will the right kind of push and activity lead him to indulge in that most manly accomplishment—cigarette smoking—simply because he wishes to be thought "a man."

IN THE following paragraph the New York *Tribune* tells of the right sort of push:

"The passengers on a New York car bound down town, the other night, were amused at the sight of a youngster of ten years or so, dressed in the uniform of a messenger boy, trotting alongside the car. The little fellow joined the car at Twenty-third street, and kept company with it every block of the way down to the City Hall. When the car would stop he would halt, and when the driver would whip up his horses the boy would keep up the pace, too. One of the passengers on the front platform, struck with the boy's grit, offered to pay his fare if he would ride. The little fellow shook his head and said he was satisfied. As the car stopped at Houston street to let off a number of passengers, and he had a minute's rest, he explained that he had a message to deliver up-town, and wanted to save the ten cents which the office gave him for car fare, and yet know that he wasn't losing any time. He said he had trotted all the way up-town the same way. There's a boy who'll succeed in life. That boy will, if health and strength continue, become one of New York's merchant princes. He knows the value of saving, and at the same time is consistently earnest in his discharge of duty—resolved to lose no time that is his employer's."

SPeAKING of cigarette smoking, we are reminded that in Germany legal steps are being taken to prevent the use of tobacco by lads and youth, on the ground of its impairing their physical fitness for military service, while London physicians are calling public attention to the evils of juvenile smoking as a cause of disease, and as generally harmful to health. Athletes are letting tobacco alone, as well as strong drink, and the bright boy, who wishes to remain bright, will shun both as he would the very evil one, himself.

NOW and then the cars on the Brooklyn Bridge come to a stand-still because the mechanism of the "grip" fails to maintain its hold on the endless cable. Now and then boys and girls leave school a few terms, or years, earlier than they should, simply because they, too, have "lost their grip." A little harder work here or a little closer planning there, a little more exercise of the will power, a little stronger determination to succeed, and the difficulties in the way of a thorough education would have been removed. The boy or girl who leaves school until he or she is actually obliged to do so makes a mistake, and will live to regret it. Stick to the school just so long as you can!

DIFFERENT people have different ideas of politeness. In the elevator of a large office building, the other day, a young lawyer was one of the passengers. Before the car started on its upward trip two young ladies entered, both expert stenographers and both employed in the same building. One was a white girl and the other a colored one. As they entered the car our young disciple of Blackstone removed his hat most politely, but when the white stenographer got out at the fifth floor his hat was replaced on his head and he even took from his pocket a cigar, lighted it and puffed serenely away.

A SUBSCRIBER writes to say that he wishes "PLAIN TALK" had a better name, and one that would better indicate the character of the paper." We have always thought that PLAIN TALK was a pretty good name. "It speaks for itself," and in the past eight years has had many a thing to say. At the same time, if there is a better name we want it, and so we turn the matter over to our subscribers. What do they say? Do they want the name changed? Why? What name would be better? Let us have within the next two months a few hundred postal card letters on the subject. Just to make the matter interesting we will print the best of the replies received, so far as space will allow, and will give any two of our "Best Books" for the best reply received before May 10th, and, besides, will award a *five dollar gold piece* to the subscriber who suggests a name so good that the proprietors of the paper adopt it. If the same name is suggested by more than one subscriber the one whose card first reaches us wins the prize. Remember all replies in regard to this must be on postal cards.

## A Remedy for Tired Eyes.

TAKE a cup brimful of tepid water and add sufficient salt to be faintly perceptible to the taste. Hold your eyes to the water so that the lashes touch it, then wink once and the eyes will be suffused; do not wipe them. This so refreshes the eyes that they feel like a new pair. Do not forget the good old rule, as soon as you feel your eyes, stop using them. By the above treatment one need waste very little time waiting for tired eyes.

I REGARD your paper the best advertising medium of its kind in the U. S., and feel perfectly right in saying that it will bring more answers than any paper I advertise in with three times its circulation and twice its advertising rates. In my opinion it is indispensable to the young collector and has always something for those more advanced.

P. B. DIVER.

R ECEIVED type-writer all O. K. to-day and am well pleased with it. Please accept thanks for same. Wishing your paper success, I remain yours truly,  
JOHN W. STOWELL, Federalsburg, Md.



## The Making of Aluminum.

THE works of the Pittsburgh Reduction Co., were organized in 1888; the process is that of Mr. M. Hall, and deals with the electrolytic reduction of an oxide of aluminum by direct and continuous method. Less than a year ago the results obtained by the experimental plant, consisting of one hundred and twenty-five horse-power, high pressure engine, and two dynamos, giving a current of twenty-five volts and one thousand amperes, were so successful that the installation was increased to its present size, and is capable of producing three hundred and seventy-five pounds of aluminum per day. The material used is an oxide of aluminum, which is manufactured at Goldschmeidn, near Breslaw; it is manufactured from bauxite, which is used with carbonate of soda and forms an aluminate of soda, which being lixiviated in water is thrown down as a white precipitate, and is exported to Pittsburgh in that form. Abundance of bauxite is met with in North Carolina, but it cannot be reduced so successfully nor at so moderate a price in America as it is in Germany. It is delivered in Pittsburgh for about five cents a pound, including an import duty of sixty cents per one hundred pounds; it is probable, therefore, that it could be manufactured profitably in Europe for about three cents a pound.

The principle on which the process is based consists in the use of a molten bath of various fluoride salts, which are not decomposed by the electric current passed through them, but which, when in a molten state, decompose the alumina ( $Al_2O_3$ ), separating the oxygen and gradually reducing alumina to a metallic mass of practically pure aluminum. Prior to being treated the powdered alumina is placed in a drying furnace, and moisture to the extent of about thirty-three per cent. of the whole weight is driven out; the white precipitate is then ready for further treatment. As carried out at the Pittsburgh works, a series of open iron vessels or pots are placed on the floor of the melting-house, near the wall that separates this portion of the works from the electric plant. The pots are of wrought iron and are lined with carbon, a depression or well being left at the bottom of each; a frame work rising above each pot serves to support a series of iron rods to the lower end of which are attached carbon electrodes; these bars are held in position by binding screws and are connected to the positive poles of the dynamos; the circuit is completed by conductors from the negative poles to the iron pots. Into these carbon-lined receptacles a quantity of the fluoride salts is thrown. When the current is passed through this mixture it rapidly fuses, but does not, it is stated, undergo any further change, nor any waste, except that due to accidental spilling no matter how long it may be kept in a state of fusion. In this bath is charged a quantity of alumina, the proportions being determined by experience; the process of reduction then commences, every particle of the powder being subjected to the action of the electric current by the action of the bath. The oxygen is absorbed by the carbon electrodes, and the contents of the pots are soon reduced to a metallic mass, which does not mingle with the electrolytic bath, the respective specific gravities being sufficiently different to prevent any mechanical mixture. As the contents of each pot are run down, small quantities of alumina added, and from time to time, as the reduction has become complete, the metal is ladled from the well in each pot—the fluoride bath being easily separated—and is poured into moulds for subsequent recasting. The process is thus a direct and continuous one, involving the expenditure of a large amount of electrical energy, but one into which the action of heat, beyond that necessary to fuse the electrolytic bath and the alumina, does not enter. The re-melting furnaces, of which there is a series sunk in the floor of the reduction house, are each only large enough to receive one crucible. In these the metal is re-melted and cast in small ingots, which are, it is claimed, of an average purity of ninety-eight and five-tenths per cent.

The properties of aluminum are now generally known. Its color is white, delicately tinged with blue, and it resembles silver more than any other metal. It takes a brilliant polish, and may be rolled or forged as easily as gold or silver, or beaten into very thin leaves. It can be pressed or stamped into all sorts of shapes, or drawn into the finest of wire. Its elasticity and tenacity are about the same as vir-

gin silver, but change greatly under the hammer. It is said to resist the engraving tool till properly varnished, when it may be cut like copper. Its sonorousness is very curious. Cast in bell form its sound is sharp and not prolonged, but struck as a bar it is remarkably sweet, pure and resonant. Its sound is resolved into two notes related to each other as are D to A. It might not work well in the form of tubular wind instruments; but fine effects might be had from a series of chromatic bars. In estimating the relative cost of aluminum as compared with other metals, we must take its specific gravity into account. A bar of aluminum weighing one pound would be about four times as large as a bar of silver, brass, bronze, tin or iron of the same weight. Hence, at an equal price, aluminum would be four times as cheap as silver; but as it now costs by weight only about one-eighth as much, it would be relatively about thirty-two times as cheap. As a conductor of electricity it equals silver and is eight times better than iron, and as a conductor of heat it excels any other metal known. The first article manufactured from pure aluminum was a rattle for the Prince Imperial of France, in 1856; its sonorousness was much admired.—*Great Divide.*

## Mount Ætna.

MT. ÆTNA is located on the eastern coast of the island of Sicily. This volcano is situated between two rivers and it covers altogether an area of about eighty-seven miles in circumference.

The highest summit, as ascertained by Sir J. Herschel, in 1824, is 10,872 feet, while a later author states it, 10,835 feet.

"Around the mountain at its base, is a fertile and delightful region known as the '*regione culta*.' Near Catania, this is eleven miles broad, till one reaches, in ascending, the '*regione silvosa*,' or woody district; but on the northern side the wood skirts the mountain to within half a mile of its foot. This lowest belt is the region of cultivation; towns and villages are clustered upon it, and in the rich soil of the decomposed lava and tufa are flourishing plantations of olives, vines, grain, fruits and aromatic herbs. Though in the frequent eruptions some of these are often swept away or buried beneath the flow of lava, the attractions of the delicious climate, and of a soil so productive, overcome the fears of a people familiar with the dangers, and render them comparatively indifferent to the annoyances of the sharp volcanic dust."

For many miles around this volcano some very tall trees can be seen. The most noted, perhaps, is the gigantic chestnut tree described by Capt. Smythe, as a cluster of what appears to be seven trees growing together, the largest of which measured thirty-eight feet in circumference, and the whole one hundred and sixty-three feet. The goat's cavern is situated at a height of 5,362 feet, and is frequented by these animals in bad weather, and was formerly used as a resting place for travelers.

On a mountain of stone and ashes is the great crater, the depth of which is from six hundred to eight hundred feet. Rumbling noises and smoke issue from it continually. There are eighty secondary volcanoes, one of which is over seven hundred feet high.

"The earliest recorded eruption of Ætna is mentioned by Diodorus Siculus, which caused the Sicani to desert its vicinity and move further to the south. No date is given, but it appears to have happened before the Trojan War. The next are three eruptions referred to by Thucydides, of which, according to his narrative, one was in 475 B.C., one in 425, and one at an earlier time not clearly specified. These added to the later recorded eruptions to the present time make about seventy in all."

Probably the most destructive eruption that occurred is the one that partially destroyed Catania. Eight years after the lava entered the town it is stated that it was so hot that it was impossible to hold the hand in some of the crevices. Many times the lava flows down into the sea producing sounds louder and more terrific than thunder.—EDWARD P. NEWCOMER.

I HAVE received the prize books awarded me in recent word hunt. Please accept my thanks, am very much pleased with them. ANNA BLACKIE, Besemer, N. Y.

## NUMISMATICS.

CHARLES T. TATMAN, - - - EDITOR,  
93 PIEDMONT ST., WORCESTER, MASS.

THE idea of an American Numismatic Association which was spoken of in last month's PLAIN TALK, and also in *The Numismatist* seems to meet with favor. Mr. W. G. Jerrems, Jr., one of Chicago's well-known coin-collectors, writes to the editor of this department as follows: "I am in favor of a National Society, I am at present a member of the American Numismatic and Archaeological Society but would be glad to join another society of less advanced collectors than those in the 'A. N. and A. S.' I do not suppose that our exchanges could be carried on by the plan used by the Philatelic societies, but we might be able to use some scheme that would work to our mutual benefit. Perhaps exchanges could be made from sheets of *rubblings*. Each collector might make good rubbings of each side of his duplicates, and send the same with his price to an exchange secretary, who would put them on a regular circuit. I shall be glad to hear that such a society is being formed, and will give it all the aid that I can."

There is a United States coin rarer than the 1804 dollar. It is the unique twenty-dollar gold piece of 1849, the only specimen of which is in the mint cabinet at Philadelphia.

How many of our readers ever saw a half-dollar of 1837 with the following words on the edge: "Fifty cents a dollar"? Such a coin exists. The spacing is different from that on ordinary pieces, so that the lack of the words "or half" is not due to the wearing off.

The American Antiquarian Society, whose museum building is in Worcester, Mass., has a very fine collection of the so-called "Pennsylvania Bungtowns". The society also possesses a small but choice collection of U. S. cents, and a good stamp collection.

Mr. Charles E. Leal, of Paterson, N. J., formerly publisher of the *American Numismatist*, is once more in the publishing field with a monthly entitled *The Collector's Magazine*. A coin department is to be one of the regular features of the publication.

The cent of 1877 is now undoubtedly worth a premium, and several other dates are likely to become so, as the cent of 1861, perhaps.

Three cent nickels, are no longer coined, and people will do well to hold all such coins dated since 1875, with the exception of 1881.

It is said that the U. S. cent of 1831 is rapidly growing scarce.

At the sale of the great Parmelee collection, a pattern cent of 1792, the only one known outside of the mint, brought \$210.

The political tokens of the United States form an interesting series, but a good many of them are hard to obtain.

A subscriber to PLAIN TALK writes as follows: "I recently acquired a rare Washington medal, which I was told was a genuine original, struck in copper, from the die. Now I suspected that the piece was only a lead copy, copper plated by the electrolyte process. The medal was so large that I could not judge very well of its weight, and I did not wish to disfigure it by a boring or acid test. So I took it to the laboratory of the institution where I am studying, and very carefully weighed it in the air, and then in water. Comparing the two weights, I found that the specific gravity of my medal was about 8.7, and referring to the list of specific gravities, I found that of copper to be 8.8, while that of lead 11.5. I was then thoroughly satisfied that my medal was an original."

### Answers to Queries.

FRANK M. LYON, Pierceville, Ia.—The rubbing was made from a german card-counter or *Spiel Marke*. The legend signifies "With glad spirits." The piece is of slight value.

J. L. S.—V nickels without the word "cents" will probably not be worth a premium inside of half a century. If all the horse-car conductors and others who are hoarding them up should put them into circulation they would be common enough.

J. B. B.—A U. S. half dollar of 1815 is worth from \$2.50 to \$6.00, according to condition.

THE SAURUS.—The rarest U. S. cent is 1799, worth from five dollars to twenty-five. 1793 and 1804 are also very rare, being worth almost as much. Of course, uncirculated specimens of these coins have sold for much higher sums than those given above. An 1804 cent once sold for \$200.

## PHILATELY.

ALVAH DAVISON, - - - - - EDITOR,  
176 BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

MR. FRANK H. JAMISON of Orange N. J., is editor of a fine looking paper entitled *High School Life*.

Lieutenant J. M. T. Partello, U. S. A., who distinguished himself in the battle at Wounded Knee, was a passenger on the Red Star steamship Friesland, which sailed for Antwerp yesterday.

Lieutenant Partello is on a leave of absence, and goes to Dusseldorf to visit his brother, who is the United States Consul there. Another passenger on the same vessel was Ferdinand Von Brussels, the Consul-General of Belgium to Canada.—*Daily Continent*.

Mr. Partello is a well known stamp collector and his many friends will be glad to know that he passed through "Wounded Knee" and came out with a whole skin. Some were not so fortunate.

It is really too bad that Chicago's efforts to have a stamp paper are met with such little favor by the postal authorities at Washington. First the *C. P. S. Bulletin* was refused second-class rates, then the *Stamp Collector*, and now it is believed that the *American Philatelist* will be treated in the same way, although the last named paper enjoyed newspaper rates for some years when published in Philadelphia. The final decision in regard to admitting a paper to second-class rates is given at Washington, and it seems very strange that they would pass a paper at one time, and refuse the same paper later, but such are the inconsistencies of government officials. New York City at one time was thought to be the worst place to get anything through, but the laurel is given to Chicago by a large majority.

The *Standard Philatelist* of St. Louis I understand has been refused second-class rates; but that was expected owing to the publishers filling the paper with their own advertisements. In passing on the fitness of a paper for second-class rates the first, and in fact the only question considered is this: Is the paper issued in the interest of, or to further any firm's business? If it is, then it is not a newspaper in the intent of the law and is not entitled to the reduced rates. A stamp dealer may issue a paper in the interest of that pursuit, but care must be taken that he does not make it a pamphlet to advertise his own business.

The stamp business of the J. W. Scott Co. has increased to such an extent that they have had to take in another floor to get room for their extensive stock and give the clerks a chance to move around more freely.

Arrangements for the inauguration of a steamship Post Office service between this country and Germany have just been completed.

The service will be put in operation from this city on April 15th. One German and one American clerk will be assigned to each steamer.

The service will be conducted on the same principle as the railway post offices. Mail will be assorted between Hamburg, Bremen and New York, during the passage to and from this port, so as to be ready to be forwarded upon the arrival of the steamer. It is estimated that the new service will save from eight to ten hours in transportation.

New York furnishes six of the clerks who have been assigned to this service by the Superintendent of Foreign Mails at Washington. These clerks are W. H. Hall, J. J. Valentine, P. J. Holtzman, J. F. Collins and T. F. Burke, clerks at the Post Office, and W. Spenale, Chief Transfer Clerk at the Grand Central Station.—*Evening World*.

The New York Post Office has just added an information bureau to the establishment, this being a place on the ground floor presided over by an old employee who is supposed to know everything, from "the weather forecasts for to-morrow," to "whether Mr. Jones is in his office on the top floor, and if not, why not?" The bureau is intended to give in any language, clear and concise answers to the thousand and one questions which have heretofore been fired at the patient and long-suffering stamp clerks.



The Metropolis will probably be the home of another stamp paper before many weeks, but as yet matters are not in shape to give names.

The National Philatelic Society have taken a room in the Astor House where meetings will be held on various Saturday afternoons. The Philatelic Society have hired permanent rooms in the Everett Building, corner Nassau and Ann streets, and here the members can go at any time during the day or evening. With these conveniences the Metropolitan collectors have no cause to let their interest in the pursuit lag in any way.

On the evening of March 3d, a very enjoyable occasion was held at the rooms of the Brooklyn Philatelic Club in honor of their third anniversary. About one hundred and fifty invitations were sent out to all members of the five Metropolitan Societies, but owing to the exceedingly inclement weather on that evening, many were unable to attend who had intended to do so. A choice collation consisting of salads, etc., was served, and those who braved the elements were well repaid for it. Members from the Brooklyn, National, Staten Island, New Jersey and the Philatelic Society responded to various toasts and many regrets were heard that anniversaries only came once a year.

*The American Philatelist* will hereafter give reports of the meetings of all branch societies, although they will probably be condensed somewhat. The refusal of this paper to publish these reports was what led to the establishment of the *Metropolitan Philatelist*. The collectors in and around New York City to the number of about 150 are members of the different societies, and while they are unable to attend all meetings, they must have a report of the proceedings, hence the establishing of the *M. P.* as official organ of the various societies.

Although there is a law, and a very stringent one against making or printing any reproduction of a United States stamp, it is evident that many publishers are ignorant of it. In *Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly* for the current month is an article on "The Dead Letter Office" illustrated with six envelopes bearing two cent stamps. They have been reproduced by the photo process and are therefore exact reproductions, the size only being reduced. In Cleveland a book is published entitled "One hundred Lessons in Business" and in this appears pictures of envelopes with stamps attached, these being the same size and excellent reproductions of the originals. The face of a postal card is also shown bearing the head of Jefferson. These works are freely sent through the mails, and should the authorities ever notice the cuts there will be a rumpus.

*The Cream City Philatelist* from Milwaukee, Wis., and the *Maritime Philatelist* from Salem, Nova Scotia, are the latest aspirants to the popular favor, both sending out the February as the final number.

A writer in *Mekel's Stamp News* reports the finding of a five cent blue United States stamp of the 1875 issue, head of Taylor, *grilled*. This stamp is not catalogued in that condition although it is reported as having been issued. This find is but another instance of the value of closely examining every stamp, as only in this way will new varieties be found. The value of such a specimen will well repay for the trouble spent, without counting the pleasure of unearthing such a rarity.

The auction sale of the Geo. B. Mason collection, or as it should be called his stock, took place in Bangs' rooms on March 5th, 6th and 7th. The sale was well attended as everyone was looking for bargains in the immense quantity of stamps catalogued, but I fear the buyers were disappointed. Some of the ordinary United States stamps brought forty per cent. above catalogue prices, and the prices as a rule were high. Mr. Mason spent many years of his life seeking for stamps in the old paper warehouses in Ann street, and it was the dampness of these places that led to the incurable malady which ultimately led to his death. The stamps were sold mostly in quantities, there being so many of them, and the amount realized I imagine will be considerable.

The Scott Co. have another sale on the 18th and 19th, this being the J. R. Hooper collection.

## [Prize Essay.]

The Stamps of Sarawak and what may be Learned from them.

BY LEON E. JOSEPH.

AS stamps are the subject of this department I will begin by describing them. The first stamp of Sarawak was issued in 1869. The design consisted of the head of the rajah, with "Sarawak" in a curve above. It was yellow and its value was three cents. The second was like the first in all respects except that "Sarawak" was in a straight line. It was issued in 1871. In 1875 the design was the same as in 1871, and values and colors as follows: the two cent, lilac; four cent, yellow; six cent, green; eight cent, blue and twelve cent, carmine. The design for 1889 was inscribed, "Sarawak Postage and Revenue," and the members of the set are a two cent, purple and red; three cent, purple and blue; four cent, purple and yellow; six cent, purple and red-brown; eight cent, green and red; twelve cent, green and blue; twenty-five cent, green and red-brown. In 1876 the three cent yellow of 1875 was surcharged with new value—two cents, making it a Provisional stamp. One cent in our money equals two in Sarawak.

In 1839-1840 Sarawak, the most southern province of the sultanate of Brunei was in a rebellion against the tyranny of the governor, Pangeran Makota, and Muda Hassim was sent to restore order. The insurgents held out at Balidah or Bidah Fort in the Siniowan district, and there James Brooke first took part in the affairs of the territory. By his assistance the insurrection was suppressed and on September 24th, 1840, he was appointed chief of Sarawak.

In 1843, Captain Keppel and Mr Brooke expelled the pirates from the Saribas River, and in 1844, they defeated those on the Batang Supar, to which Makota had attached himself. In 1849, another severe blow was struck by the destruction of Sirib Sahib's Fort at Patusan.

The Chinese, who had begun to settle in the country about 1850, at Bau and Bidi, made a violent attempt to massacre the English and seize the government, but they were promptly and severely crushed after having done havoc at Kuching. During Sir James Brooke's absence in England, from 1857 to 1860, his nephew, Captain J. Johnson (who had taken the name of Brooke, and is generally called Captain Brooke) was 1 ft in authority, but a quarrel afterwards ensued and Sir James Brooke was, in 1868, succeeded by Charles Johnson (or Brooke) a younger nephew. The independence of Sarawak had been recognized, after much controversy, by England in 1863, and previously by the United States.

The government is an absolute monarchy. The present Rajah is the nephew of Sir James Brooke. The rajah is assisted by a supreme council of six, consisting of two chief European residents and four natives, nominated by himself. There is also a general council of fifty which meet every three years or oftener if required. For administrative purposes the country is divided into eight districts corresponding to the number of principal river basins. Three chief districts are presided over by European officers. The military force—some 250 men—is under the control of an English command. There are also a few small steam vessels. The civil service is regularly organized, with pensions, etc. The revenue is in a satisfactory state, showing \$64,899 to the good in the period between 1875 and 1884. In 1884 the revenue was \$276,269, and the expenditure \$289,291.

The Roman Catholics and Protestants both have missions in Sarawak, and the English Bishop of Singapore and Lubuan is also styled Bishop of Sarawak. The population consists of Malays, Chinese, Land Dyaks, Sea Dyaks and Milanows. "Without the Chinaman," said the Rajah, in 1883, "we could do nothing. When not allowed to form secret societies he is easily governed, and this he is forbidden to do on pain of death." The Dyaks within the territory have given up head hunting. The Milanows, who live in northern districts, have adopted the Malay dress and in many cases have become Mohammedans; they are a quiet, contented and laborious people. Slavery still prevails in Sarawak, in some of the out-of-way towns, in secrecy, for it was prohibited in 1888. Kuchin, the capital of Sarawak, on the Sarawak River, is a place of 12,000 inhabitants and is steadily growing.

# NATURAL HISTORY.

WILL. H. PLANK, EDITOR.

Correspondence desired from all. Articles on Natural History desired from all. Address W. H. Plank, Kansas City, Kansas, or Springfield, Mo.

BY the time that this number reaches the many readers of PLAIN TALK, signs of spring will have been manifested in the shape of an early flower, a leaf-budded tree, or the note of some feathered songster. With others a month and even three must pass before the white garments of winter fall and reveal the emerald garments of so welcome a guest. New recruits have been made during the past year, and older ones more enthused. May you all be bountifully rewarded from Nature's storehouse. Remember that patience goes a good ways with Nature, and as "Rome was not built in a day," so you must not expect to learn it all at once, and to be an Agassiz or a Thoreau, rests with you. Make for yourself what you will, but bear in mind that "Science moves but slowly, slowly, creeping on from point to point."

## Notes.

ANOTHER bed of crinoids has been found in Kansas City and the members of the Academy may be seen around at most any hour of the day.

Mr. Fred C. Singleton a member of the Hill and Dale Club of this city has accepted a position in the Law Department of the M. K. & T. R.R., at Parsons, Kansas. We have lost a bright young collector.

The Hill and Dale Club of this city, meets every two weeks with Dr. Heath, the South America explorer. It is useless to say that the meetings are interesting.

We will give PLAIN TALK readers a description of the large cave at Springfield, Mo., in a near number.

It is proposed that a large balloon be built to explore the northern regions with.

Walter E. Bryant the California ornithologist, has kept track of the sea-birds that have been found dead on the beach of San Francisco. After every severe storm numerous birds have been found on the beach bewildered and exhausted from the storm. No land birds have yet been noticed. Nineteen species have thus far been noticed. They seem to be principally the Pacific Fulmar, Western Gull, California Gull, and the California Murie.

## Maryland's Sandy Shore.

THE Eastern Shore of Maryland is entirely made up of drift sands and gravel deposited during the tertiary age. On the lower part of the peninsular fine sands seem to prevail, while at the middle and upper part coarser sand, clay and gravel predominate. In many places there are well preserved beds of miocene shell. To the lithological geologist this kind of formation is of little interest, but to the historical and to the dynamical geologist it is by no means divested of interest. Here the historical geologist has a page of the earth's history laid open for him to peruse. A well preserved bed of miocene shells washed by a clear stream of water and underlying fifteen feet of layers of sand, clay, and gravel. This is a scene which will well repay an amateur geologist for an hour's study. We find species of shell that have laid here for perhaps a million years and are identical with the species now living, as in the case of the oyster and clam. These are said to be among the oldest living species, besides being now among the most useful products of the world. There are over twenty-five thousand people now living solely on the profits of the oyster business in this state. But these are not the only species of interest in these beds! There are many other shells and a great variety of teeth of sharks, etc., and every little piece in the bed seems to have something to tell of the creation of the world.

Take one tiny grain of sand and give it the power to tell its history! Let it tell of its wild wanderings over the earth, what a volume it could fill! Let it begin back long ages

before the creation of the organic beings, when it laid a tiny undefined speck in the earth's mighty crust; then of its being crushed and driven by a mighty fiery avalanche from below, and thrown from its resting place high in the air only to fall back with tons upon tons of its mother rock, again to be crushed and ground down. Then perhaps a long journey from its original home, now tearing through some deep and rugged gorge, midst a perfect maelstrom of ice and water and rock, and now rolling slowly over the bottom of some great river, then dashed by the angry waves of a greater ocean and thrown high upon some sunny beach, or laid gently beneath long fathoms of dark and silent water. Then, perhaps, after long ages, to be again overtaken by some terrible force from below and started once more on its wanderings or forced to another resting place high above the water, beneath the scorching rays of the sun, and all the time being slowly ground down, becoming smaller and smaller, assorted with millions of other grains of its own weight, and spread out in vast beds perhaps to slowly sink below the surface again, and be converted into another kind of rock and preserve within its folds fossil remains of the first species of organic and plant life.—A. E. CAREY.

## What A Mud-Turtle Said.

THERE has been great rejoicing in the house where I belong to-day. A little boy lives in the house, and he says that he owns me, though why he does I don't know, unless because he found me one day when I had crawled out from under the sidewalk. I was just going to make myself comfortable in the sunshine when a lot of boys came along. One of them spied me, and pounced on me right away. He tried to hold me down to the ground so that I could not crawl away, and he put his knee on my shell, and pressed so hard that I expected every minute to hear my shell crack.

But another boy knew better how to manage me than the first boy did. He took hold of my shell, and picked me right up, and carried me along. The first boy claimed me because he said he saw me first, and the second boy bought me for a top and a knife with a broken blade. Then this second boy carried me home and put me in the back yard.

That is where I have been living ever since. He did not think so, though. One day he could not find me and he cried because he thought I had run away. But I had not. I had only made a little place for myself in the ground in a corner of the yard, and settled myself to sleep through the winter as my folks always do. I heard the little boy when he began to cry because he had lost me, and I had a great mind to come out and tell him I was not lost; but I was too sleepy to stir, and I did not make my appearance again until to-day.

The little boy was greatly surprised when I appeared, and almost all the family have been out to see me. I feel quite proud because they were so glad to see me.

Almost all who have been to see me to-day have said, "What a nice mud-turtle he is!" But I am not a turtle; I am a tortoise. If I had been a turtle, I should not have gone to sleep over winter, but I should have been off at sea along with the other true turtles.

If I were a turtle, I could not draw my head and feet inside my shell as I can now, and as true tortoises can. Not all of us can draw our feet and head in so far as to shut our upper and lower shells together though, the way the Box Tortoise does. He is perfectly protected by his shell. But most persons do not care to remember the difference between a turtle and a tortoise, and I expect some folks will go on calling me a mud-turtle as long as they live.

But I think that if wise men can spend a great deal of time studying us and learning our habits, common folks might at least learn our right names.

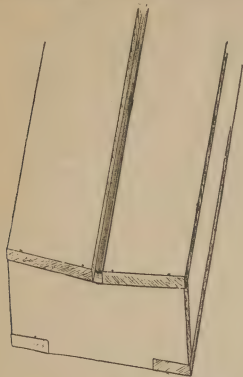
Why, I heard once of a very learned friend of ours, a man named Agassiz, who had a large garden full of turtles and tortoises near the city of Boston, and he used to walk among these animals every day, and feed them, and study their likes and dislikes, and write about them. I should like to have been one of those tortoises, for I am sure I should have been treated well by such an owner. I have always noticed that the wiser a person is, the kinder he is toward animals.

—Land and Water Friends.



## A Setting Board for Butterflies.

EDITOR PLAIN TALK:—I received your favor of the 3d instant, and gladly send you a sample of my setting boards. I make them twelve inches long. The groove in the middle must of course be according to the size of the body of the specimen, and also the sides for supporting the



wings must correspond to their size. Great pleasure is in store for those who engage in the study of *Lepidoptera*. A small case of perfect specimens of our most common butterflies will outlive many a costly oil painting in regard to combination of colors and elegance of forms.—H. H. ABELING, Torrington, Conn.

## New Books for the Naturalist.

PRE-HISTORIC AMERICA. "This translation is one of the best books for the archaeologist that has yet been published."—NATION. By Marquis De Nadaillac. Edited with notes by W. H. Dall. Large 8vo., 219 illustrations. New price, \$2.25.

AMONG THE MOTHS AND BUTTERFLIES. Every Agassiz member who has been delighted with "Insect's Lives," will be pleased to learn that this book has been revised and enlarged under the above name. Its author, Mrs. Julia P. Ballard, has given Entomology a careful study, and has given us her knowledge in her careful and pleasing style. Small 8vo. Price, \$1.50.

THE TREES OF NORTHEASTERN AMERICA, by Chas. S. Newhall. A description of all the native trees of Canada and Northern United States west of the Mississippi River. 8vo., extra cloth. Price, \$2.50.

The above books are just from the press of G. P. Putnam's Sons, 27-29 W. 23d St., New York.

## Where Wild Fowl Go.

UNTIL the acquisition of Alaska by the United States it was a matter of wonder where certain wild fowl went when they migrated from temperate climes on the approach of summer, as well as snow birds and other small species of the feathered tribe, says the *Sitka Alaskan*. It was afterward found that their habitat in summer was the waters of Alaska, the Yukon River and the lakes of that hyperborean region. A reporter recently interviewed C. J. Green, of Norton Sound, Western Alaska, and he confirms the statement of Dall and others. "People wonder where the wild fowl come from," said he. "They see the sand-hill crane, wild goose, heron and other fowl every spring and fall pursue their unwearied way, but, like the wind, they do not know whence they come or whither they go. Up on Golovin Bay, on the north shore of Norton Sound, is the breeding place of these fowl. All the birds in creation, seemingly, go to that country to breed. Geese, ducks, swans, and thousands upon

thousands of sand-hill cranes are swarming there all the time. They lay their eggs in the blue-stem grass in the lowlands, and if you go up the river a little way from the bay the noise of the wild fowl is almost deafening. Myriads of swallows and robins are there, as well as millions of magnificent grouse wearing red combs and feathered moccasins. This grouse turns white as snow in winter. You can kill dozens of juicy teal ducks or grouse as fat as butter-balls in a few moments. The wild fowl and bears live on salmon berries, with which all the hills are literally covered."

## The Ostrich.

BY PLUVIA.

THERE is but one specie of the ostrich; it is sparsely diffused over the interior of Africa and is rarely found in Asia. It generally measures six feet in height, and occasionally attaining nine feet; its weight varies from twenty to a hundred pounds.

The ostrich has been known from the most remote antiquity. It is spoken of in the sacred writings, for Moses forbade the Hebrews to eat of its flesh, as being "unclean food." The Romans, however, considered it a great culinary luxury. In former days it was a favorite dish with the tribes of Northern Africa. At the present date the Arabs content themselves with using its fat as an outward application in certain diseases, especially rheumatic affections, and it is said they derive from it very beneficial effects.

The natives of Africa call the ostrich "the camel of the desert," just as the Latins denominated it *Struthio camelus*.

There is, in fact, some likeness between them. This resemblance consists in the length of the neck and legs, in the form of the toes, and in the callosities which are found in the lower stomach of both. In some of their habits they also resemble each other. The ostrich lies down in the same way as the camel, by first bending the knee, then leaning forward on the fleshy part of the sternum, and letting its hinder quarters sink down last of all. Although the senses of sight and hearing in the ostrich are so highly developed that it is said to distinguish objects six miles off, yet the senses of taste and smell are very imperfect. In a wild state it takes into its stomach large pebbles to increase its digestive powers. In captivity it gorges lots of wood and metal, pieces of glass, plaster and chalk. Herbage, insects, small reptiles, and even small mammalia are the principal food of the wild ostrich. It is capable of enduring hunger and thirst for many days—about the most useful faculty it could possess in the arid and burning deserts which it inhabits.

The muscular power of the ostrich is truly surprising. If matured it can carry a man on its back, and is readily trained to carry a man, or bear a burden. The tyrant Firmus, who reigned in Egypt in the third century, was drawn by a team of ostriches.

Man succeeds in capturing the ostrich only by stratagem. Sometimes the hunter covers himself with an ostrich's skin, and by the aid of his disguise the birds can be approached sufficiently near to kill them.

The Arabs hunt the ostrich with dogs, which pursue it until it is completely worn out. There are also several other devices used to capture or kill these birds. The ostrich, which is an eminently sociable bird, may be seen in flocks of two or three hundred, mixed up with droves of zebras, quag-gas, etc.

In spite of its great strength, the ostrich, when unmolested, is the most peaceable creature in the world; and owing to its inoffensive nature, it readily becomes domesticated. If captured young, it can be tamed in a short time.

In all ages the feathers of the ostrich have been the object of considerable trade; it is for these plumes that the birds are hunted and reared. Each bird produces about half a pound of white feathers and three pounds of black. The delicate wavy plumes, sought after by the female sex, are found on the tail and wings. The Roman soldiers decked their helmets with them.

The Africans annually destroy a large number of these birds, yet their race do not appear to diminish. It is a useful creature, and I could write a great deal more about it, but lack of space compels me to stop.

## PUZZLEDOM

CONDUCTED BY "FISCO."

Address all communications pertaining to this Department to ENGAS P. MEYVILLE, Puzzle Editor PLAIN TALK, 524 Upland Street, Chester, Pa.

## New Puzzles.

No. 1.

## SQUARE.

1. A kind of janitor. 2. Somniferous.
3. Bony. 4. A jacket. 5. Endless. 6. To flush.

"BLAIR ATHOL."

Malden, Mass.

No. 2.

## CHARADE.

Oh wretched PRIME thy sin is deep  
Thou art not FINE to enjoy thy sleep,  
For fear thy life some thief shall take,  
And so in WHOLE thy life dost make.

But oh! thou fool dost not thou know  
The Lord is mighty—his vengeance slow,

And if thou his favor would obtain  
Give to the poor of thy hoarded gain.  
Jersey City, N. J. "INCIGNITO."

No. 3.

## DIAMOND.

1. A consonant. 2. A small draught.
3. To gaze fixedly. 4. A jewel. 5. Haughty. 6. Conclusion. 7. A consonant.

"LATIO."

Nutley, N. J.

No. 4.

## SQUARE.

1. At any time. 2. True; exact. 3. A lake well-known. 4. Esculent grains.
- White Plains, N. Y. "E. L. H."

No. 5.

## DROP LETTER PUZZLE.

—r i — h — r — y — c — w—

Nutley, N. J. "LATIO."

No. 6.

## DIAMOND.

1. A letter. 2. A particle of negation.
3. Tensions. 4. A number. 5. A letter.
- White Plains, N. Y. "E. L. H."

No. 7.

## PI.

Of to snrpit ahtt phrepsa hranote,  
Glnasi reo sefil nemols nima,  
A rlnroo dan hspki-kreewd trohreb,  
Gresen lahlk keat atrhe nigaa.

White Plains, N. Y. "E. L. H."

No. 8.

## INSERTIONS.

Insert a letter into the words in the first column to get those in second. The inserted letters name a great general.

|                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| A permission to use, | A general;        |
| Warmth,              | Part of the body; |
| To wager,            | To pound;         |
| A boy,               | Ground;           |
| To settle,           | A hart.           |

Waterman, Ill.

Prize: Any two of our "Best Books."

The above named prize will be awarded on the following plan; if an even number of correct answers are received, the prize will be sent to the one sending the first; if an odd number, to the one sending the middle correct answer, unless divisible by five, when it will be given for the last correct answer.

Answers to puzzles appearing in this issue will be published in the June number, and answers will be received up to May 10th, but no answers received after that date will count.

## Palaver.

I am indebted to "R. O. Chester" for information in regards to the National Puzzlers' Association, to which organization I now belong.

To "Santa Claus:" Your five word diamond sent to me I find unavailable. Do not become discouraged. Try again. The principal of the diamond is that of a form which reads the same either across or down, beginning at the upper left side. The fourth line in your puzzle fails to work this way.

The N. A. P. convention was called to order Feb. 22, 1891, at 5.30 P. M., the official editor in the chair. Floy, Fisco, Clie, Nordeck and D. I. Lemma were elected. A motion was made and carried, to notify all members that their dues of ten cents a month commenced with the date of application, and of being in arrears. The election of officers resulted in: Elbert, president; Proteus, vice-president; R. O. Chester, cor. secretary; Nordeck, rec. secretary; H. S. Nut, financial secretary; Clio, treasurer; Folga, official editor; Elbert, inspector of forms; Proteus, inspector of flats. The next place of meeting will be Chicago, July 5th, 1893. The roll was called and Rita, Sibyl, Floy, Clio, Al Addin, Nordeck, E. X. Press, Ajax, Desmore, Fire Proof, Pen Tracer, Alias, Latakia, Zenobia, Marco, Tullia, Cato, Boz, Imlac, Folga, Heckla, May A., Gloria, Hazel, Aunt Muggins, Mr. Sport, Rokeby, Louis E. Anna, Phil. A. Delphia, A. P. R., Minnie Mum, Martha, Leontine, Lallah Rookh and Thisdoph—total thirty-five—were found to be present. The meeting adjourned until Monday night when a grand surprise awaited them. The large hall was gayly festooned, the floor was "munchy" waxed and in an adjacent room was an extensive table heaped with dainties of every description. At daybreak the gathering broke up and the occasion will long be remembered.

The Treasurer's address is: Miss Ruth Delevan, southeast corner Magazine and Melpomene Streets, New Orleans, La.

—The Appeal.

All puzzlers should become members of the National Puzzlers' Association and help make it a successful affair. By-laws, constitution, list of officers, etc., can be had by addressing Geo. A. French, (FOLGA) 97 Poydras St., New Orleans, La., who is Official Editor of the association.

Edward Dana Sabine has adopted the nom-de-plume of "Blair Athol."

## From "Folderol."

"Fisco."—Yours of——at hand and in reply will say. I have no history, or at least none of interest to PLAIN TALK puzzlers. Topsy-like, I just grew and thrived, in the valley of the Kennebec, in the good old Pine Tree State. I never saw the White-house, never crossed the continent, or made the tour of the world in eighty days, I never invented perpetual motion, wrote a book or led an ism or creed, but am simply "Folderol" at your puzzleistic pleasure. A few years ago I became interested in the puzzle department of an Augusta, Me., paper

from which I was so fortunate as to win a few prizes and contribute puzzles since which time I have been irregularly interested in various departments among which are prize and puzzle corners, puzzle mysteries, snarley skeins, pine knots, hard knots, puzzledom, etc., winning a few modest prizes now and then and contributing simple mysteries. For one of the later prizes I have to thank your PLAIN TALK department, as from my first endeavor I won first prize. I presume that your department is crowded with better efforts than "Folderol's" but nevertheless I will venture to send a contribution, that may perhaps serve, if by chance, you should have no better. In my efforts at forming I never have sent out an anagram as I am not particularly fond of them, and in a list of desirable puzzles I should place it last as its solution consists of too much guess work and not enough study on words that will instruct as well as amuse the solver, as is the case with the study of squares, diamonds and nearly all other kinds. About the time I became interested in puzzles I also became interested in collecting, and sometime I may perhaps tell the PLAIN TALK readers of some of my collections, especially wood of which I have 260 kinds. If it so be that you find this note of any use, all right, use it and if it is found of no use, why, drop it in the waste basket and no harm will be done to,

Yours truly,

"FOLDEROL."

## AMATEUR PRESS NOTES.

Conducted by "AN OLD BOY."

## School Papers.

While not strictly a school paper, yet the *Youth's Journal* issued by Archie W. Shaw, at Jackson, Mich., aims to represent the high-schools of Michigan, and is a very bright periodical.

Promptness in issuing a paper is a decided virtue. The *Oracle*, from the Malden, Mass., high-school is always on time—The *Racquet* from, Portland Me., is another paper of which the same may be said. This paper complains that in the school which it represents the class spirit is too prominent and the school spirit not enough so.

The *Commencement Herald*, issued by F. Stacy Whitney and Charles W. Gans, at Tacoma, Wash., is devoted to the different educational interests of that city, and, incidentally, to amateur journalism.

The *High-School Review*, Newton, Mass., is one of the largest papers in its line which comes to us; it is well edited and has an exceptionally good advertising patronage.

## THE AMATEUR PRESS.

The *National Amateur* gives the following list of "new papers:—"

The *News Letter*, Hope Reed Cody, 3625 Grand Boulevard, Chicago, Ill.; Oscar A. Reum, 40 Lakeside Building, Chicago, Ill.

My Regards, A. V. Dwarak, Geneva, Neb.

The *Recorder*, F. W. Lynes, 155 Allen st., Buffalo, N. Y.



*The New Era*, Brainard P. Emery, 244 Grand Street, Newburg, N. Y.

*Utopia*, R. Levin Mitchell, 545 E. 8th street, Arthur J. Peacock, 1019 Tatnall street, Wilmington, Del.

*Wilmingtonian*, Thos. J. Nulty, 416 Lombard street, Wilmington, Del.

*Empire State Amateur*, John J. Ottinger, 146 Arkansas street, Buffalo, N. Y.

*Excelsior*, J. F. Shannon, 4122 Ogden street, Philadelphia, Pa.

*The Hoosac Hustler*, W. Wells Darby, North Adams, Mass.

*The Gem*, Arthur S. Mann, 71 W. North street, Buffalo, N. Y.

*The Autocrat*, S. J. Steinberg, 47 Russell ave., Arthur Bazel, 337 S. New Jersey street, John D. Snyder, 437 S. Illinois street, Indianapolis, Ind.

## CORRESPONDENCE CLUB.

This Department is established in response to numerous requests from subscribers. All readers are invited to make use of it, remembering the following rules: **FIRST**—Brevity. **SECOND**—Clearness of statement. **THIRD**—Acquire knowledge of what is wanted. **FOURTH**—The desirability of confining themselves, as much as possible, to questions of interest to others as well as to themselves. **FIFTH**—The will be given attention as early as possible, although in some cases more or less delay may be necessary.

### A MEDICAL PAPER.

S. B. T., Trenton.—*Medical Classics*, New York City, is published at fifty cents per year, and might please you. The publishers will doubtless send a sample copy free on application.

### TO RE-INK TYPEWRITER RIBBONS.

L. E. H.—It is cheaper to buy new ribbons, rather than to attempt to re-ink old ones, if one's time is of any value. They can be re-inked, however, by stretching tightly on a frame and brushing over carefully and evenly with a very thin aniline ink, such as is used for inkling rubber stamp pads.

### VARIOUS SUGGESTIONS.

In response to our request for opinions from subscribers as to any desirable changes in *PLAIN TALK*, a letter has been received.

Paul Foster thinks that the department of "Games and Pastimes" is the most enjoyable, but would like a greater variety in prizes offered. Send us a few more subscribers, so that we can afford better prizes, and it will be our pleasure to increase the offers. In any event, some very desirable ones will be offered within the next few months.—Chas. A. Hunt thinks a department of physical culture would be an improvement, while S. A. Y. wishes to know if we are to give the proposed page of "Pieces to Speak." To the latter we reply, "Yes, in a very short time." Work is now being done on the necessary engravings, etc.

### MUST MEAN "PLAIN TALK."

A. W. S. writes:—"I was referred to you for answer to the following. In what paper does it pay best to advertise; papers devoted to stamps, coins, and minerals and general news for boys?" "A. W. S." does not mean "PLAIN TALK," we think, for we know of no other paper which comes so near "filling the bill." There are quantities of other good papers, some of which are good advertising mediums, while others are of doubtful value. About the only way to find out if it will pay to advertise in a paper is to try it. Your advertisement may "draw," while another may not; or your own may not, while another will.

### GOOD READING MATTER.

The publishers of *PLAIN TALK* receive large quantities of good reading matter, such as magazines, story-papers, philatelic journals, and the like, and have been offering them for sale at the uniform price of ten cents per pound, postpaid. Several persons buy regularly every week, saying that they are more than satisfied with their investment. If interested, send small advertisement elsewhere.

## Exchange and Sale Department.

Subscribers who pay \$1.00 per year have the privilege of this department free, subject to the following rules. To those not subscribers the charge is 1 cent per word per line. Do subscribe to have our services. We can be responsible concerning exchanges effected by means of this department, neither will the reliability of exchangers be guaranteed. To avoid any misunderstanding in the matter, it would be advisable for those contemplating exchanging to write for particulars to the address given, and sending the articles to be exchanged. Notices must be plainly and concisely written, following the general arrangement given below, and on each side the name of the party, as often as you please, but not more than one notice for single issue. Notices of more than 40 words not included. Notices to be sent to the publishers, and not by one insertion. Exchange notices of revolvers, "trashy" novels, etc., not inserted. The publishers reserve the right to decline to insert any notice if they think best.

C. E. Tribbett, Thornton, Boone Co., Ind.—I have to exchange good Indian relics or old U. S. coins, one old stove, new \$1.25, one gasoline 12 light torch, \$2.00, good condition, one large mounted mink, fine, \$2.00, one fine model of Anconia nearly painted, fine, \$3.00, three feet in length.

C. S. Kneebles, Wakefield, Mass.—An 8x10 and a 5x8 photo outfit. Cameras have reversible backs, with Redwood shutter and 1/2 ft. bellows, etony piccolo view. Want a pair of ball bearing pedals.

A. E. Marks, Woodford, Me.—For sale or exchange 100,000, \$2.00; 100,000, \$3.00; 100,000, \$4.00; 100,000, \$5.00; 100,000, \$6.00; 100,000, \$7.00; 100,000, \$8.00; 100,000, \$9.00; 100,000, \$10.00.

James L. Little, Goddard Avenue, Brookline, Mass.—Chamber Sparrows for sale. Pups of the year, from pure and registered stock. Make excellent game dogs. Fine disposition and easily trained. Pedigrees furnished and published.

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R. W. Stearns, Sewall Ave., Brookline, Mass.—Will send 100 foreign stamps for a drill four inches square and under without applies for ever dime dated before 1875.

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Fred. Bundy, Birdseye, Ind.—Will exchange a good silver dollar 1750 good, "half dollars" 1820 to 1829, all in good condition. Will also like to have coin and stamp lists.

L. A. Livingston, Dairysburg, Pa.—A genuine "Mad" man's collection, a sure cure for all kinds of mad things of poisonous insects, etc., retail price \$5.00, for \$2.50. No mineralogical cabinet complete without one, besides its medicinal virtues.

F. S. Morton, 158 Cumberland Street, Portland, Me.—For sale, A Compound Microscope magnifies up to 50 diameters. Cost \$6.00, will sell cheap. Write for description.

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Frank Green, Gallon, O.—A 48 inch ordinary Bicycle for best offer also safety 30 inch ball bearing all around, cash or stamps, all mail orders answered.

Philatelic Publications.—A philatelic club has been formed in La Crosse, Wis. The secretary, E. R. Helberg, of South St. Paul, would be pleased to receive copies of all philatelic publications.

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Joshua Arter, Crestline, Ohio.—Will exchange two fine spear heads for an imperial stamp album that has population, area, etc. and worth 75c.

Robt. J. Clark, Abbeville, S. C.—One U. S. dime, 1797, one U. S. half dime, 1788—One U. S. half dime, 1835. The above coins are in what is known numismatically as good condition. Send in your best exchange, also best cash offer.

Charles H. Arthur, 1318 Walnut Street, McKeesport, Pa.—Stamps.—Have foreign and domestic stamps to exchange, and for those who wish to see a list of names of those complying, send to all who respond. Will pay difference in cash, or will buy suitable outfit.

W. H. Jackson, Belchertown, Mass.—I would like to exchange for the book Primitive Industry.—I have to exchange minerals, fossils, and birds, etc., and three tame grey squirrels one pair, extra male.

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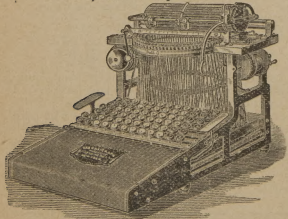
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A selection of writings on the value and use of the above will be sent postpaid for a 25c. or 50c. or 1.00. or 2.00. or 3.00. or 4.00. or 5.00. or 6.00. or 7.00. or 8.00. or 9.00. or 10.00. or 11.00. or 12.00. or 13.00. or 14.00. or 15.00. or 16.00. or 17.00. or 18.00. or 19.00. or 20.00. or 21.00. or 22.00. or 23.00. or 24.00. or 25.00. or 26.00. or 27.00. or 28.00. or 29.00. or 30.00. or 31.00. or 32.00. or 33.00. or 34.00. or 35.00. or 36.00. or 37.00. or 38.00. or 39.00. or 40.00. or 41.00. or 42.00. or 43.00. or 44.00. or 45.00. or 46.00. or 47.00. or 48.00. or 49.00. or 50.00. or 51.00. or 52.00. or 53.00. or 54.00. or 55.00. or 56.00. or 57.00. or 58.00. or 59.00. or 60.00. or 61.00. or 62.00. or 63.00. or 64.00. or 65.00. or 66.00. or 67.00. or 68.00. or 69.00. or 70.00. or 71.00. or 72.00. or 73.00. or 74.00. or 75.00. or 76.00. or 77.00. or 78.00. or 79.00. or 80.00. or 81.00. or 82.00. or 83.00. or 84.00. or 85.00. or 86.00. or 87.00. or 88.00. or 89.00. or 90.00. or 91.00. 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183.00. or 184.00. or 185.00. or 186.00. or 187.00. or 188.00. or 189.00. or 190.00. or 191.00. or 192.00. or 193.00. or 194.00. or 195.00. or 196.00. or 197.00. or 198.00. or 199.00. or 200.00. or 201.00. or 202.00. or 203.00. or 204.00. or 205.00. or 206.00. or 207.00. or 208.00. or 209.00. or 210.00. or 211.00. or 212.00. or 213.00. or 214.00. or 215.00. or 216.00. or 217.00. or 218.00. or 219.00. or 220.00. or 221.00. or 222.00. or 223.00. or 224.00. or 225.00. or 226.00. or 227.00. or 228.00. or 229.00. or 230.00. or 231.00. or 232.00. or 233.00. or 234.00. or 235.00. or 236.00. or 237.00. or 238.00. or 239.00. or 240.00. or 241.00. or 242.00. or 243.00. or 244.00. or 245.00. or 246.00. or 247.00. or 248.00. or 249.00. or 250.00. or 251.00. or 252.00. or 253.00. or 254.00. or 255.00. or 256.00. or 257.00. or 258.00. or 259.00. or 260.00. or 261.00. or 262.00. or 263.00. or 264.00. or 265.00. or 266.00. or 267.00. or 268.00. or 269.00. or 270.00. or 271.00. or 272.00. or 273.00. or 274.00. or 275.00. or 276.00. or 277.00. or 278.00. or 279.00. or 280.00. or 281.00. or 282.00. or 283.00. or 284.00. or 285.00. or 286.00. or 287.00. or 288.00. or 289.00. or 290.00. or 291.00. or 292.00. or 293.00. or 294.00. or 295.00. or 296.00. or 297.00. or 298.00. or 299.00. or 300.00. or 301.00. or 302.00. or 303.00. or 304.00. or 305.00. or 306.00. or 307.00. or 308.00. or 309.00. or 310.00. or 311.00. or 312.00. or 313.00. or 314.00. or 315.00. or 316.00. or 317.00. or 318.00. or 319.00. or 320.00. or 321.00. or 322.00. or 323.00. or 324.00. or 325.00. or 326.00. or 327.00. or 328.00. or 329.00. or 330.00. or 331.00. or 332.00. or 333.00. or 334.00. or 335.00. or 336.00. or 337.00. or 338.00. or 339.00. or 340.00. or 341.00. or 342.00. or 343.00. or 344.00. or 345.00. or 346.00. or 347.00. or 348.00. or 349.00. or 350.00. or 351.00. or 352.00. or 353.00. or 354.00. or 355.00. or 356.00. or 357.00. or 358.00. or 359.00. or 360.00. or 361.00. or 362.00. or 363.00. or 364.00. or 365.00. or 366.00. or 367.00. or 368.00. or 369.00. or 370.00. or 371.00. or 372.00. or 373.00. or 374.00. or 375.00. or 376.00. or 377.00. or 378.00. or 379.00. or 380.00. or 381.00. or 382.00. or 383.00. or 384.00. or 385.00. or 386.00. or 387.00. or 388.00. or 389.00. or 390.00. or 391.00. or 392.00. or 393.00. or 394.00. or 395.00. or 396.00. or 397.00. or 398.00. or 399.00. or 400.00. or 401.00. or 402.00. or 403.00. or 404.00. or 405.00. or 406.00. or 407.00. or 408.00. or 409.00. or 410.00. or 411.00. or 412.00. or 413.00. or 414.00. or 415.00. or 416.00. or 417.00. or 418.00. or 419.00. or 420.00. or 421.00. or 422.00. or 423.00. or 424.00. or 425.00. or 426.00. or 427.00. or 428.00. or 429.00. or 430.00. or 431.00. or 432.00. or 433.00. or 434.00. or 435.00. or 436.00. or 437.00. or 438.00. or 439.00. or 440.00. or 441.00. or 442.00. or 443.00. or 444.00. or 445.00. or 446.00. or 447.00. or 448.00. or 449.00. or 450.00. or 451.00. or 452.00. or 453.00. or 454.00. or 455.00. or 456.00. or 457.00. or 458.00. or 459.00. or 460.00. or 461.00. or 462.00. or 463.00. or 464.00. or 465.00. or 466.00. or 467.00. or 468.00. or 469.00. or 470.00. or 471.00. or 472.00. or 473.00. or 474.00. or 475.00. or 476.00. or 477.00. or 478.00. or 479.00. or 480.00. or 481.00. or 482.00. or 483.00. or 484.00. or 485.00. or 486.00. or 487.00. or 488.00. or 489.00. or 490.00. or 491.00. or 492.00. or 493.00. or 494.00. or 495.00. or 496.00. or 497.00. or 498.00. or 499.00. or 500.00. or 501.00. or 502.00. or 503.00. or 504.00. or 505.00. or 506.00. or 507.00. or 508.00. or 509.00. or 510.00. or 511.00. or 512.00. or 513.00. or 514.00. or 515.00. or 516.00. or 517.00. or 518.00. or 519.00. or 520.00. or 521.00. or 522.00. or 523.00. or 524.00. or 525.00. or 526.00. or 527.00. or 528.00. or 529.00. or 530.00. or 531.00. or 532.00. or 533.00. or 534.00. or 535.00. or 536.00. or 537.00. or 538.00. or 539.00. or 540.00. or 541.00. or 542.00. or 543.00. or 544.00. or 545.00. or 546.00. or 547.00. or 548.00. or 549.00. or 550.00. or 551.00. or 552.00. or 553.00. or 554.00. or 555.00. or 556.00. or 557.00. or 558.00. or 559.00. or 560.00. or 561.00. or 562.00. or 563.00. or 564.00. or 565.00. or 566.00. or 567.00. or 568.00. or 569.00. or 570.00. or 571.00. or 572.00. or 573.00. or 574.00. or 575.00. or 576.00. or 577.00. or 578.00. or 579.00. or 580.00. or 581.00. or 582.00. or 583.00. or 584.00. or 585.00. or 586.00. or 587.00. or 588.00. or 589.00. or 590.00. or 591.00. or 592.00. or 593.00. or 594.00. or 595.00. or 596.00. or 597.00. or 598.00. or 599.00. or 600.00. or 601.00. or 602.00. or 603.00. or 604.00. or 605.00. or 606.00. or 607.00. or 608.00. or 609.00. or 610.00. or 611.00. or 612.00. or 613.00. or 614.00. or 615.00. or 616.00. or 617.00. or 618.00. or 619.00. or 620.00. or 621.00. or 622.00. or 623.00. or 624.00. or 625.00. or 626.00. or 627.00. or 628.00. or 629.00. or 630.00. or 631.00. or 632.00. or 633.00. or 634.00. or 635.00. or 636.00. or 637.00. or 638.00. or 639.00. or 640.00. or 641.00. or 642.00. or 643.00. or 644.00. or 645.00. or 646.00. or 647.00. or 648.00. or 649.00. or 650.00. or 651.00. or 652.00. or 653.00. or 654.00. or 655.00. or 656.00. or 657.00. or 658.00. or 659.00. or 660.00. or 661.00. or 662.00. or 663.00. or 664.00. or 665.00. or 666.00. or 667.00. or 668.00. or 669.00. or 670.00. or 671.00. or 672.00. or 673.00. or 674.00. or 675.00. or 676.00. or 677.00. or 678.00. or 679.00. or 680.00. or 681.00. or 682.00. or 683.00. or 684.00. or 685.00. or 686.00. or 687.00. or 688.00. or 689.00. or 690.00. or 691.00. or 692.00. or 693.00. or 694.00. or 695.00. or 696.00. or 697.00. or 698.00. or 699.00. or 700.00. or 701.00. or 702.00. or 703.00. or 704.00. or 705.00. or 706.00. or 707.00. or 708.00. or 709.00. or 710.00. or 711.00. or 712.00. or 713.00. or 714.00. or 715.00. or 716.00. or 717.00. or 718.00. or 719.00. or 720.00. or 721.00. or 722.00. or 723.00. or 724.00. or 725.00. or 726.00. or 727.00. or 728.00. or 729.00. or 730.00. or 731.00. or 732.00. or 733.00. or 734.00. or 735.00. or 736.00. or 737.00. or 738.00. or 739.00. or 740.00. or 741.00. or 742.00. or 743.00. or 744.00. or 745.00. or 746.00. or 747.00. or 748.00. or 749.00. or 750.00. or 751.00. or 752.00. or 753.00. or 754.00. or 755.00. or 756.00. or 757.00. or 758.00. or 759.00. or 760.00. or 761.00. or 762.00. or 763.00. or 764.00. or 765.00. or 766.00. or 767.00. or 768.00. or 769.00. or 770.00. or 771.00. or 772.00. or 773.00. or 774.00. or 775.00. or 776.00. or 777.00. or 778.00. or 779.00. or 780.00. or 781.00. or 782.00. or 783.00. or 784.00. or 785.00. or 786.00. or 787.00. or 788.00. or 789.00. or 790.00. or 791.00. or 792.00. or 793.00. or 794.00. or 795.00. or 796.00. or 797.00. or 798.00. or 799.00. or 800.00. or 801.00. or 802.00. or 803.00. or 804.00. or 805.00. or 806.00. or 807.00. or 808.00. or 809.00. or 810.00. or 811.00. or 812.00. or 813.00. or 814.00. or 815.00. or 816.00. or 817.00. or 818.00. or 819.00. or 820.00. or 821.00. or 822.00. or 823.00. or 824.00. or 825.00. or 826.00. or 827.00. or 828.00. or 829.00. or 830.00. or 831.00. or 832.00. or 833.00. or 834.00. or 835.00. or 836.00. or 837.00. or 838.00. or 839.00. or 840.00. or 841.00. or 842.00. or 843.00. or 844.00. or 845.00. or 846.00. or 847.00. or 848.00. or 849.00. or 850.00. or 851.00. or 852.00. or 853.00. or 854.00. or 855.00. or 856.00. or 857.00. or 858.00. or 859.00. or 860.00. or 861.00. or 862.00. or 863.00. or 864.00. or 865.00. or 866.00. or 867.00. or 868.00. or 869.00. or 870.00. or 871.00. or 872.00. or 873.00. or 874.00. or 875.00. or 876.00. or 877.00. or 878.00. or 879.00. or 880.00. or 881.00. or 882.00. or 883.00. or 884.00. or 885.00. or 886.00. or 887.00. or 888.00. or 889.00. or 890.00. or 891.00. or 892.00. or 893.00. or 894.00. or 895.00. or 896.00. or 897.00. or 898.00. or 899.00. or 900.00. or 901.00. or 902.00. or 903.00. or 904.00. or 905.00. or 906.00. or 907.00. or 908.00. or 909.00. or 910.00. or 911.00. or 912.00. or 913.00. or 914.00. or 915.00. or 916.00. or 917.00. or 918.00. or 919.00. or 920.00. or 921.00. or 922.00. or 923.00. or 924.00. or 925.00. or 926.00. or 927.00. or 928.00. or 929.00. or 930.00. or 931.00. or 932.00. or 933.00. or 934.00. or 935.00. or 936.00. or 937.00. or 938.00. or 939.00. or 940.00. or 941.00. or 942.00. or 943.00. or 944.00. or 945.00. or 946.00. or 947.00. or 948.00. or 949.00. or 950.00. or 951.00. or 952.00. or 953.00. or 954.00. or 955.00. or 956.00. or 957.00. or 958.00. or 959.00. or 960.00. or 961.00. or 962.00. or 963.00. or 964.00. or 965.00. or 966.00. or 967.00. or 968.00. or 969.00. or 970.00. or 971.00. or 972.00. or 973.00. or 974.00. or 975.00. or 976.00. or 977.00. or 978.00. or 979.00. or 980.00. or 981.00. or 982.00. or 983.00. or 984.00. or 985.00. or 986.00. or 987.00. or 988.00. or 989.00. or 990.00. or 991.00. or 992.00. or 993.00. or 994.00. or 995.00. or 996.00. or 997.00. or 998.00. or 999.00. or 1000.00. or 1001.00. or 1002.00. or 1003.00. or 1004.00. or 1005.00. or 1006.00. or 1007.00. or 1008.00. or 1009.00. or 1010.00. or 1011.00. or 1012.00. or 1013.00. or 1014.00. or 1015.00. or 1016.00. or 1017.00. or 1018.00. or 1019.00. or 1020.00. or 1021.00. or 1022.00. or 1023.00. or 1024.00. or 1025.00. or 1026.00. or 1027.00. or 1028.00. or 1029.00. or 1030.00. or 1031.00. or 1032.00. or 1033.00. or 1034.00. or 1035.00. or 1036.00. or 1037.00. or 1038.00. or 1039.00. or 1040.00. or 1041.00. or 1042.00. or 1043.00. or 1044.00. or 1045.00. or 1046.00. or 1047.00. or 1048.00. or 1049.00. or 1050.00. or 1051.00. or 1052.00. or 1053.00. or 1054.00. or 1055.00. or 1056.00. or 1057.00. or 1058.00. or 1059.00. or 1060.00. or 1061.00. or 1062.00. or 1063.00. or 1064.00. or 1065.00. or 1066.00. or 1067.00. or 1068.00. or 1069.00. or 1070.00. or 1071.00. or 1072.00. or 1073.00. or 1074.00. or 1075.00. or 1076.00. or 1077.00. or 1078.00. or 1079.00. or 1080.00. or 1081.00. or 1082.00. or 1083.00. or 1084.00. or 1085.00. or 1086.00. or 1087.00. or 1088.00. or 1089.00. or 1090.00. or 1091.00. or 1092.00. or 1093.00. or 1094.00. or 1095.00. or 1096.00. or 1097.00. or 1098.00. or 1099.00. or 1100.00. or 1101.00. or 1102.00. or 1103.00. or 1104.00. or 1105.00. or 1106.00. or 1107.00. or 1108.00. or 1109.00. or 1110.00. or 1111.00. or 1112.00. or 1113.00. or 1114.00. or 1115.00. or 1116.00. or 1117.00. or 1118.00. or 1119.00. or 1120.00. or 1121.00. or 1122.00. or 1123.00. or 1124.00. or 1125.00. or 1126.00. or 1127.00. or 1128.00. or 1129.00. or 1130.00. or 1131.00. or 1132.00. or 1133.00. or 1134.00. or 1135.00. or 1136.00. or 1137.00. or 1138.00. or 1139.00. or 1140.00. or 1141.00. or 1142.00. or 1143.00. or 1144.00. or 1145.00. or 1146.00. or 1147.00. or 1148.00. or 1149.00. or 1150.00. or 1151.00. or 1152.00. or 1153.00. or 1154.00. or 1155.00. or 1156.00. or 1157.00. or 1158.00. or 1159.00. or 1160.00. or 1161.00. or 1162.00. or 1163.00. or 1164.00. or 1165.00. or 1166.00. or 1167.00. or 1168.00. or 1169.00. or 1170.00. or 1171.00. or 1172.00. or 1173.00. or 1174.00. or 1175.00. or 1176.00. or 1177.

# STAMPS, COINS, &c.

## Stamps on Approval

**AGENTS** Wanted to sell stamps at 50 per cent. commission. **WALTON STAMP CO.**, Richmond Sp. N. Y.  
 20 var. 50c. 30 for \$1.00; 45 for \$1.50; 55 for \$2.00; 70 for \$3.00; 85 for \$4.00. 111. **FRANK KINS**, Knoxville, Iowa.  
**EGGS.**  
**10 RARE STAMPS FREE.** Three consecutive bills, 10 cents. **F. B. THOMAS**, Norwich, N. Y.  
**AGENTS** Wanted to sell stamps from 100 different sheets at 33 1/2 per cent. **VICTOR STAMP CO.**, Lock Box 19, Richmond Springs, N. Y.  
**STAMPS** 100 all different. Agents wanted to sell stamps from my sheets at 30 per cent. **B. V. JENKINS**, 1224 N. Charles St., Baltimore, Md.  
**\$20 CONFEDERATE MONEY.** 1 Chinese Colon, 60 foreign stamp and new coin list, 6c. **P. B. DIVVER**, Anderson, S. C.  
**20 VAR. FREE** to each new agent to sell stamps 100 all different. Agents wanted to sell stamps at 30 per cent. commission. 300 finely mixed 5c. 100 all different. **F. C. BARTLETT**, Box 78, Norwich, N. Y.

To all responsible collectors who will enclose a two cent stamp and promise to return in seven days.

**W. J. PARRISH,**  
 1408 Johnson Ave., Kansas City, Mo.

**HENRY GREMMEL,**  
 Dealer In  
**U. S. & Foreign Postage Stamps. etc.**  
**FOR COLLECTORS,**  
 80 Nassau St., New York.  
 Price List of all stamps ever issued only 10 cents. Packet and Net List Free.

A Few Bargains.—Every packet contains used and unused stamps of almost all countries. Every stamp is guaranteed genuine. 250 varieties \$1.25, 500 varieties \$2.00, 1000 varieties \$3.00, 2000 var. \$5.00; 40 var. U. S. 50c; 15 var. Central America 30c; 35 var. Asia 50c; 30 var. West India 40c; 25 var. Asia 40c; 20 var. Africa 45c; 25 var. Australia 30c, etc., etc.  
 VAST—Large and small collections. In fact all kinds of stamps in large and small quantities. Highest cash prices paid.  
 Agents wanted to sell our stamps at good commission, send for particulars. An album worth \$1.50 to the best enterprising magot.

**5000 U. S. REVENUES.**  
**MATCH, MEDICINE AND DOCUMENT STAMPS.**  
 Recently came into my possession through the death of a relative. Not being a "stamp crank!" I shall dispose of them at once for 25c per lot, mixed; 50c for 1st. Address, **L. MORRISON**, Marshall, Mich.

**OVER 50 PER CENT. DISCOUNT**  
 on U. S. Department Stamps. 25 varieties, including Justice, State, Navy, Agriculture, etc., for \$1.00. The catalogue price is over \$2.00.  
**C. F. ROTHFUCH,**  
 Wholesale & Retail Dealer in U. S. & Foreign Stamps  
 303 1/2 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, D. C.

**WEEKLY**  
**THE STAMP NEWS**  
 PUBLISHED EVERY WEEK  
 Send 5c for sample copy, or for the large 4-column stamp newspaper; \$1.00 per year, subscriptions for 3 or 6 months received at same rate. A COLLECTION OF 350 STAMPS, AND A LARGE STAMP ALBUM, \$1.00. **C. H. MCKEE**, St. Louis, Mo.

**BARGAINS IN STAMPS.**

| NO. | COUNTRY  | 1848-1850 | STAMPS PRICE |
|-----|--|-----------|--------------|
| 9   | West-Indian—Trinidad, St. Kitts, Barbados, Tobago, St. Vincent, etc.   | 1.00      | 1.00         |
| 11  | 100 West-Indian—from nearly every Island.  | 2.50      | 2.50         |
| 12  | 60 Oceania—West and South Australia, Fiji, Hawaiian, Victoria, etc.  | 75        | 75           |
| 14  | 600 Including Native Indian States, Alsace, Bahamas, Bermuda, British Honduras, Unpaid Trinidad, Cyprus, Eastern Roumelia Levant and many fine stamps. | 3.50      | 3.50         |
| 15  | 500 Including Mauritius (British), Fiji, Suriname, Hongkong, Iceland, Malta, Philippine Islands, etc.  | 2.00      | 2.00         |

| NO. | COUNTRY          | 1848-1850              | STAMPS PRICE |
|-----|------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| 9   | Austria          | 1850-1850              | 10           |
| 6   | Azores           | 1875-88                | 5            |
| 9   | Bavaria          | 1848-50                | 20           |
| 10  | Belgian          | 1848-86                | 34           |
| 11  | Bermuda          | 1/2 to 4d. incl.       | 5            |
| 12  | Chili            | 1, 2, 3, 4, 10 & 20 c. | 2            |
| 13  | Brazil           | 1850-1850              | 20           |
| 14  | British Honduras | 1, 2 & 3 c. 1858       | 3            |
| 15  | Chili            | 1, 2, 3, 4, 10 & 20 c. | 2            |
| 16  | Cyprus           | 30 pa to 6 pt          | 11           |
| 17  | Denmark          | 1852-55                | 16           |
| 18  | Dutch Indies     | 1870-1888              | 16           |
| 19  | Egypt            | 1867-85                | 16           |
| 20  | Finland          | 1866-90                | 15           |
| 21  | France           | 1852-94                | 50           |
| 22  | French Colonies  | 1875-85                | 15           |
| 23  | Gambia           | 1/2, 1, 2 & 4 d.       | 4            |
| 24  | Germany          | 1852-89                | 50           |
| 25  | Great Britain    | 1841-87                | 60           |
| 26  | Greece           | 1862-88                | 20           |
| 27  | Haiti            | 1853 1/2 to 20 c.      | 6            |
| 28  | Haiti            | 1887 1/2 to 5 c.       | 35           |
| 29  | Hungary          | 1868 1/2 to 1 f.       | 25           |
| 30  | Italy            | 1853 to 88             | 60           |

| NO. | COUNTRY  | 1848-1850     | STAMPS PRICE |
|-----|----------|---------------|--------------|
| 31  | Bermuda  | 1/2 to 3 d.   | 10           |
| 32  | Bolivia  | 1847          | 15           |
| 33  | Bolivia  | 1 to 20 c.    | 15           |
| 34  | Columbia | 1 to 20 c.    | 10           |
| 35  | Cyprus   | not assorted  | 60           |
| 36  | Haiti    | 1 to 20 c.    | 25           |
| 37  | Jamaica  | well assorted | 30           |
| 38  | Jamaica  | 10 var.       | 60           |

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| #6 Nicaragua, 1882   | 10 |
| #7 Mexico, 1872      | 10 |
| #8 Mexico, 1872      | 10 |
| #9 Mexico, 1872      | 10 |
| #10 Mexico, 1872     | 10 |
| #11 Mexico, 1872     | 10 |
| #12 Mexico, 1872     | 10 |
| #13 Mexico, 1872     | 10 |
| #14 Mexico, 1872     | 10 |
| #15 Mexico, 1872     | 10 |
| #16 Mexico, 1872     | 10 |
| #17 Mexico, 1872     | 10 |
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